

HSS new

Barney's Version • 12 | The Business of Free • 16 | Paul Mecurio • 22



BUILDING A NEW PARTY

JANUARY 13, 2011
ISSUE 894

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THE WINTER REPORT

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EVENT CALENDAR



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THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2011

Ice Carving Competition

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 2011

Ice Carving Competition
Frozen Friday Karaoke on the
EIA Stage - 7 pm - 9 pm

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 2011

Ice Carving Competition
Award Ceremony at 3 pm
Kalya Patrick & Scenic Route to Alaska
from U22 on the EIA Stage - 7 pm - 9 pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16, 2011

Confucious Institute on the
EIA Stage - 7 pm - 9 pm

MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 2011

Confucious Institute on the
EIA Stage - 7 pm - 9 pm
Drop In L'il Chipper Classes 7 - 8 pm

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2011

Edmonton Jazz Orchestra on the
EIA Stage - 7 pm - 9 pm
Drop In L'il Chipper Classes 7 pm - 8 pm

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2011

Northern Lights Folk Club on the
EIA Stage - 7 pm - 9 pm
Drop In L'il Chipper Classes 7 pm - 8 pm

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2011

B'Scene Studios Music Night on the
EIA Stage - 7 pm - 9 pm
Drop In L'il Chipper Classes 7 pm - 8 pm

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 2011

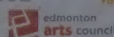
'Beneath the Ice' at the
PCL Studio Theatre 6 pm
Frozen Friday Karaoke on the
EIA Stage - 7 pm - 9 pm
Drop In L'il Chipper Classes 7 pm - 8 pm

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 2011

'Beneath the Ice' at the
PCL Studio Theatre 2 pm & 6 pm
Boogie Patrol - EIA Stage - 7 pm - 9 pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 2011

'Beneath the Ice' at the
PCL Studio Theatre 2 pm & 6 pm
FEATURE PERFORMANCE
Brunel Lion Dancers on the
EIA Stage - 7 pm - 9 pm



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NEWS FEATURE · ALBERTA POLITICS

Room For One More?

THE ALBERTA PARTY STAKES OUT THE MIDDLE GROUND ON ALBERTA'S POLITICAL MAP

BY MAURICE TOUGAS

Chris LaBosiere is a successful Edmonton tech entrepreneur, co-founder of fast-growing Yardstick Software. He calls himself a realist, but as president of the nascent Alberta Party, he does allow himself one “audacious” dream.

Before the next election rolls around, expected in 2012, he not only wants to have representatives of the Alberta Party in the legislature, he wants his party to lead the opposition.

“It does sound unrealistic, but my hope is to already be the leader of the opposition in the Alberta legislature,” LaBosiere says in an interview.

“That’s a big, audacious goal, but it’s one that I have as president,” he says. While admitting it “does sound unrealistic” to supplant the Liberals as the official Opposition, LaBosiere says his party has had conversations with “a number” of sitting MLAs about joining the party.

“Some of them (MLAs) are just nibbling at the start of it, and some of them are very well along in the process.”

He says the party could have an MLA today if it wanted to, but it’s looking for just the right person.

“We don’t want to have any MLA just for the sake of having an MLA.”

Pretty big dreams for a party that hasn’t even contested an election yet, but these are interesting times in Alberta politics. While the battle between the Wildrose Alliance and the ruling Progressive Conservatives has garnered most of the headlines, bubbling beneath the surface is the Alberta Party, a centrist group that aims to run candidates in every constituency by 2012. Its lofty goal is nothing less than doing politics differently.

The Alberta Party has existed, mostly in

name only, since 1985. But in 2009, when the Renew Alberta movement — a non-partisan gathering of Albertans who were concerned about the state of democracy in Alberta — announced its intention to establish a new centrist party, the wheels were set in motion for a revitalization of the moribund party. In February 2010, Renew Alberta’s organizing committee agreed to join the Alberta Party, launching “The Big Listen” process to develop a entirely new policies from the grassroots.

The party is small, but fast growing and rapidly evolving. It has a new board of directors, has drafted a constitution, and held a policy conference. The party has about 800 members, LaBosiere says, and money is steadily coming in.

“We ran the party from January to September on about \$4,000. Everything — websites, stationary, travel — was all donated by our volunteer base.”



Chris LaBosiere | PHOTO SUPPLIED

Since then, they’ve raised close to \$65,000. LaBosiere admits it’s small potatoes compared to the money the other parties raise, but he expects the numbers will grow when the party launches its leadership race, which will culminate in a convention here in May. The party is raising enough to pay the bills, and has hired a full-time organizer.

“We started a brand new party, no policies, no money in the bank and 40 or 50 members a year ago, and in a month we’ll have 30 CAs (constituency associations) organized, we’ll hopefully have \$100,000 to \$150,000 in the bank, we have a full-time leader, a leadership race underway — that’s a lot of progress.”

Sue Huff, acting leader of the party, is touring the province spreading the word. Last week, she was in Grande Prairie

for the inaugural meeting of the constituency association there and to talk to city council about municipal policy.

Huff, a former public school trustee who chose not to run for re-election, says she was attracted to the “people, the process, and the policy” of the organization.

“Everything feels new and fresh and exciting.”

“There are so many amazing people who are committed to this group, you can’t help but feel you’re joining a wonderful wave of energy,” says Huff, an actress and filmmaker.

What does the Alberta Party stand for that would separate it from the others?

“One of our main objectives is to bring Albertans’ voice back to politics and back to the legislature. Right now, only 23 per cent of Albertans have chosen the current government, and that is quite troubling. It’s the lowest in Canada for a ruling party,” says Huff.

“There are a lot of people who feel disconnected from political life, that their voice isn’t heard and that the government is going to do what it wants anyway. We really have an enormous amount of work to restore democracy here.”

She describes the party as “very moderate,” which reflects how she sees Albertans, as “reasonable, common sense kind of people what really want a balance between the pursuit of your individual dreams and aspirations, but also recognizing that we live in a society and that we’re part of a group.”

Why did Huff throw her energies into an unknown party, instead of one of the existing four parties in the Legislature?

The existing parties, she says, are “negative and toxic.” She was approached by other parties to run, but she found them “very confrontational and very aggressive. I almost feel that if one side came up with a plan for world peace, the other side would have to rip it apart.”

If it sounds like redefining politics, that’s because it is.

“Maybe it’s time for political makeover. We need to all grow up a little bit.”

She thinks the real potential for growth is in the 60 per cent of Albertans who didn’t vote,

and she’s not worried about siphoning votes away from the other left or centrist parties, and splitting the anti-Tory vote even further.

“If people are willing to change their vote and come to us, then whoever they’re leaving should be looking in the mirror, because that clearly was not a very pas-

sionate or committed vote.

“What’s on offer isn’t really meeting the needs, and more choice is a good thing.”

LaBosiere was a true blue Alberta PC who was on the executive of Dave Hancock’s Edmonton-Whitemud constituency. In October of 2009 he attended the PC annual general meeting, looking for “some inspired innovation that the party might find to reinvent itself



Sue Huff, acting Alberta Party leader | PHOTO SUPPLIED

... and I saw quite the opposite.”

The PC party, he says, is top down in its leadership, and resistant to new ideas.

“I never felt there was a culture of transparency, a culture of innovation, or a willingness to change ... I lost faith.”

He quit the party and considered joining the Liberals, but he was put off by what he saw as the arrogance of the party, and their inability to win in rural Alberta.

Still looking for a place to apply his political energies, he attended a Reboot Alberta event, where he met a number of Alberta Party supporters.

“The people I met were consistent with what I was looking for, which was reinventing the way politics was done.

“From there, it happened fairly quickly. Three weeks later, I was on the board.”

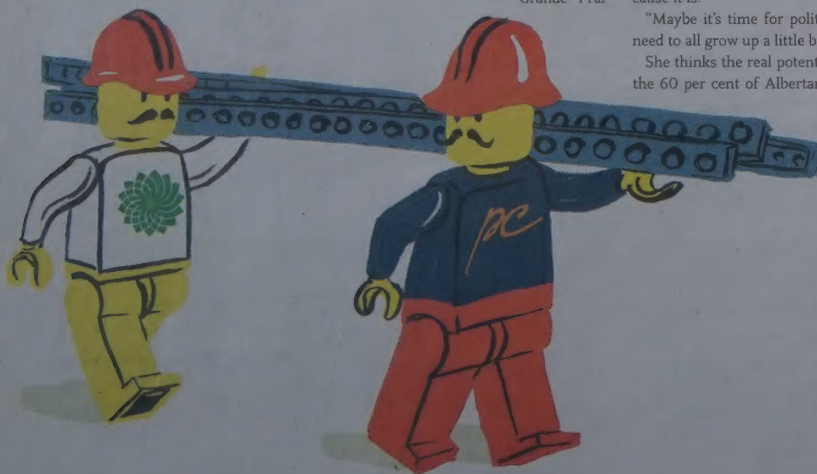
The newness of the party is one of its selling points, he says.

“What appealed to me more than anything was that it was new, a clean palate.”

LaBosiere rejects the “progressive” label, nor is the party on the left of the political spectrum.

“People say we’re left of centre, because they assume we are. The truth is that most people in our party are fiscally conservative but socially progressive, and they don’t feel comfortable in that traditional spectrum.”

ALBERTA PARTY cont’d on p. 5



ALBERTA PARTY (cont'd from p. 4)

He sees big potential for the party in rural Alberta.

"The reality is that in rural Alberta, there really is no choice if you're unhappy with the government, and you can't align yourself politically with the Wildrose Alliance." Many rural voters won't consider the Liberals.

He feels there is a great appetite in rural Alberta for a fiscally responsible, socially progressive party, and that's not the Wildrose.

"There is a stark difference between us and them, and that creates an opportunity for us in rural Alberta."

But observers caution the party has a long way to go to make real impact on Alberta politics.

Chaldens Mensah, a political science professor at Grant MacEwan University, praises the party for trying to do politics differently, but says it will be a challenge for them to break through in the next election. It would be a "huge boost for their future prospects" if they could land an MLA, like newly-independent Ray Sherman, into the fold.

It won't be easy for the party to convince disgruntled Conservatives and Liberals to break

from their long-held voting patterns.

"I don't think they've created any discernable political buzz to convince people to make a wholesale switch."

He thinks the party will have its greatest impact in more politically volatile Edmonton, less so in Calgary, and with little impact in the rural areas. The biggest impact will be on the Liberals if the Alberta Party gains momentum.

"The vote splitting in Edmonton will really hurt the Liberals, but I do believe core Liberals are not going to be switching ... the next election will come down to which party will be able to maintain the ground game of getting out the voters."

The NDs, he feels, could be hurt by voters who are concerned about the environment moving their vote to the Alberta Party.

The biggest challenge for the Alberta Party, along with the other parties, is to engage the huge number of disengaged voters.

"If the Alberta Party plays its cards well, and comes up with the right leader, then they could make waves in the election. But right now, I'm not very optimistic about their chances."

Mark Lisac, publisher of the nonpartisan newsletter Insight into Government, sees the

Alberta Party as a serious movement with potential for the future, although in the short-term he believes they will just split the middle/left vote.

"I can see what they want to accomplish, but I but can't see how they have much chance of doing anything in real terms beyond getting a few more PCs elected than would otherwise be the case," writes Lisac in an email.

"As with other parties, much of their success will depend on their leadership and we won't even know who the leader is until about the end of May. They could also start to register more with the public if they can lure some MLAs into joining."

He cites former Liberal leadership candidate Dave Taylor, who quit the party over the leadership of David Swann, and Calgary MLA Kent Hehr (whose former campaign manager, Chima Nkemdirim, was and remains a key organizational figure in the party), and possibly Sherman. Even getting an MLA on board, however, is not a way to become an alternative to the government.

"The main effects would be further damage to the Liberals and further marginalization of the New Democrats."

"When you look at the room of an Alberta Party meeting, there are Conservatives, Liberals and New Democrats. We have found a way to get rid of the ideology that is forever slapping you up the side of the head, and saying we can easily work together, because we are not that far apart."

One of the big selling points of the Alberta Party is its willingness to embrace "best practices," regardless of where they come from. During the party's recent policy convention, Wilson listened to a presentation on health care that contained ideas that were clearly socialist, and some that were clearly right wing. But in both cases, they were the best choice, she says.

"You can implement those, if you have the will."

Sherry McKibben has been a stalwart New Democrat supporter for years, even running for the NDs in Edmonton Gold Bar in 2008. But, the former Edmonton city councillor has redirected her energies towards the Alberta Party.

"I feel very strongly that the current Conservative government is not listening or serving Albertans," says McKibben, "and that some change needed to occur. But it wasn't going to occur within the current party structures."

"It was as if we had learned a dance, and we weren't prepared to do a new one."

Although she has left the NDs, she isn't overly critical of her old party:

"The New Democrats are what they are. This is, in a way, not about them. Something different has to happen, but I didn't see it as a possibility within the New Democrats."

Her involvement with the Alberta Party began with a Reboot conference last year. She attended the event at the encouragement of New Democrat friends who were sharing the same concerns she had about the province. She hosted a number of Big Listen events, which she calls "a really delightful process."

Leaving the NDs was "a long, difficult,

thoughtful process." She says there is a lot of "quiet conversation" amongst New Democrats about leaving the party for the Alberta Party.

McKibben is working behind the scenes to organize constituency organizations, but won't say if she plans on running for the party in the next election.

She won't make a prediction about the party's chances in the next election, but, she says, "change is in the air, and it's catchy."

Unlike Wilson, McKibben, or party president Chris LaBossier, John Chow has never been politically active.

"Most Albertans are apathetic to the whole process, because they feel the government isn't listening," says Chow, a project manager with the firm Worley Parsons.

Previously, the affairs of government "really didn't bother me — but now it does."

He became involved with the Renew Alberta movement, which eventually merged with the Alberta Party. He's now involved with organizing constituencies and policy.

"I feel government should be run like a project. You have objectives, you have stakeholders, you have a budget, and you have a schedule. Then you have performance feedback from your customers. That's what should be done in politics these days. There has to be accountability, and I just don't see that."

He is also tired of the ideology of politics.

"I know some people have ideological statements to make. But to me, from a projects perspective, I just want to create a system that works. Who cares if it's right wing or left wing? We just want something that works, and that's what I'm aiming for."

Lisac also feels that AP policy thinking really has little to distinguish it from the Liberals or the Conservatives. In fact, he sees little substantial difference between the five Alberta political parties.

"The New Democrats and Wildrose aren't nearly as far out of line with the political centre in Alberta as people think. All five parties seem to differ more in style and personality and internal culture than in how they would change the government."

LaBossier however, disputes the notion that the party's appeal is strictly among disaffected Liberals and New Democrats. He believes his party will appeal to the progressive side of the Progressive Conservative party.

NEWS FEATURE • PROVINCIAL POLITICS

Political Veterans AND Newbies Attracted to Shiny New Party

ALBERTA PARTY SUPPORTERS TIRED OF POLITICS AS USUAL

BY MAURICE TOUGAS

The emerging Alberta Party is finding support from across the political spectrum, as well as people who have never been involved in politics before.

Judy Wilson once worked as chief of staff for the Opposition Alberta Liberals. She now plans on seeking the nomination for the Alberta Party for the Edmonton Mill Creek constituency.

The 2008 election — which saw the Tories returned to power with an overwhelming mandate, backed by the lowest voter turnout in Alberta history — was a "disaster," says Wilson, and not just because she supported the Liberals.

"We should be all engaged in this province and charging ahead, but something just died," she says. "I couldn't see the Liberals ever making a difference, and certainly not the NDP."

Wilson began to attend small meetings of like-minded Albertans who were dismayed at the results, and wanted to do something about it.

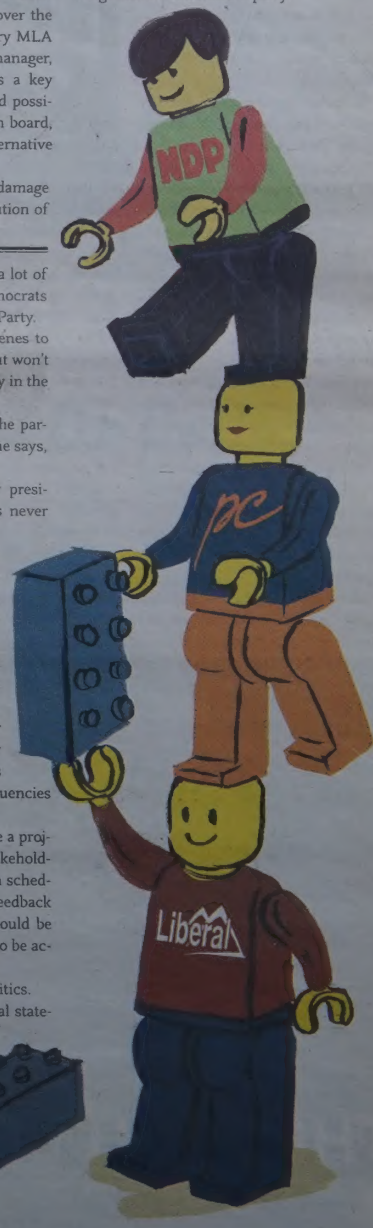


ILLUSTRATION BY BYRON EGGENSWILDER

edmonton • see magazine • January 13 - January 19, 2011 • 5

Planning School Possible For U of A

NEW PROGRAM WOULD BE A "HUGE BENEFIT TO OUR COMMUNITY," SAYS CITY PLANNING MANAGER

BY ANGELA BRUNSCHOT

The University of Alberta is studying the possibility of adding a civic planning program to its academic offerings in the future.

Although no decisions have been made yet, both city administration and industry professionals support the idea, saying a new planning school would elevate the discussion of urban planning issues and ultimately improve Edmonton's livability.

Gary Klassen, general manager of the city's planning and development branch, strongly encourages the addition.

"To have a program in our city would be a huge benefit to our community," he says.

The program would produce planning professionals with a better understanding of Edmonton's unique problems and assets, he says, and provide an opportunity for both government and business to work with the university on projects. This broader discussion of ideas "would immediately rub off on the city and region," he says.

Shafraaz Kaba, local architect and partner with sustainable architecture firm Manase Isaac, agrees. The absence of both planning and architecture programs at the university means fewer planning and architecture professionals are attracted to Edmonton, he says, which in turn means less understanding of the city's needs.

"The biggest impact a planning school would have is bringing a



Urban planning grad Brian Gould | PHOTO SUPPLIED

good brain trust of urban designers to Edmonton, and getting people to talk about planning in a more serious manner," he says. "Planners and designers need to understand the place they are working in. That can really help shape the city in a different way."

Currently, budding urban planners must leave Edmonton in order to continue their education. That's what happened to urban planner and transit advocate Brian Gould. He left over two years ago to get his masters in urban planning at the University of California, Berkeley, and now lives in Vancouver. The 24-year-old helped establish the Transit Riders Union of Edmonton (TRUE), and wrote on transit issues for a local daily.



ILLUSTRATION BY FRED CURATOLO

"Edmontonians being trained in the city, that's a benefit right there," he says, "but there's also a steady stream of free work coming out of studio projects."

Students present their ideas to local city councils, and although the plans may not receive carte blanche approval, the process does generate new ideas.

Local researchers are also able to highlight local problems and advance discussion from an independent perspective, he says. Vancouver's planning school has contributed to the

discussion of light rail there, with professors reaching out to the community and the press to help explain how the technology can work to the benefit of the city and neighbourhoods.

But Gould concedes that leaving Edmonton was still a possibility, even if the U of A did offer a planning program. Urban and regional planning programs are generally small. The University of British Columbia has one of the larger programs in Canada, but still only has 100 spots for masters and PhD students.

The other factor to consider is whether or not urban planners would move to the city, even if a planning school did exist. Bigger centres such as Vancouver, Toronto, and Montreal all have universities offering planning programs.

"Would people make Edmonton a destination for city planning?" he asks. "Does the city have something worth studying?"

Edmonton may not fare well against other major cities, however, Kaba says: "A planning school would be a really good first step."



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—Jeff Samsonow, on Twitter.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

RHETORIC RUNS WILD IN USA

The attempted assassination of Arizona Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords last weekend has shone the spotlight on the vitriolic and strident world of American political commentary.

Of course, we don't yet fully know why Jared Loughner, a mentally disturbed 22-year-old, opened fire on the Democratic congresswoman at a meet and greet with constituents Saturday, killing six in the process.

The left wing of American political commentary went into full howl, blaming the right for creating a climate of hatred that could have led to an unhinged man taking matters into his own hands. Much has been made of the fact that Sarah Palin put Giffords in the crosshairs, literally, on her website. The right immediately fought back the only way it knows how, with wildly excessive defence of its positions, while saying the left was just as bad in its use of violent imagery. Michelle Malkin, one of the new breed of angry young conservatives, warned her readers "don't let the media whitewash the sins of the hypocritical left

in their naked attempt to suppress the law-abiding, constitutionally-protected, peaceful, vigorous political speech of the right." Rush Limbaugh, the bloated king of right-wing talk radio, predicted the tragedy would be used to "clamp down" on the right. Keith Olbermann, the hyperbolic MSNBC left-winger, drew a direct line between the careless and frequent calls to arms from right wingers that, in his view, have "brought us to this time of domestic terrorism."

Once the shock of the shooting wears off, and both left and right stop playing the blame game, there will likely be a modest pullback in the rhetoric.

But it won't last. Fox News, which specializes in right-wing blather, is far and away the ratings leader among the cable news networks. MSNBC, which has hitched its wagon to the left, is second. And bringing up the rear, the station with no overt political messaging? The company that started it all, CNN.

After the brief period of soul searching, we will see a return to business as usual.

After all, there is money to be made.



CANADA'S INFO FREEDOM FALLS BEHIND

Once upon a time, Canada was a world leader in freedom of information. Today, not so much.

In a study of five parliamentary democracies — Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, and Britain — we ranked dead last. Not many years ago, Canada was a world leader in freedom-of-information, being among the first dozen countries in the world to enact freedom-of-information laws. Canada, however, is now seen as the way not to do it. Only 56 per cent of requests are

filled within the legislated 30-day period, compared to 70 per cent a decade ago. As well, only 16 per cent of 35,000 requests resulted in full disclosure of the information requested, compared to 40 per cent a decade ago. Our system is so antiquated, you still have to snail mail your request, and you can only pay by cheque.

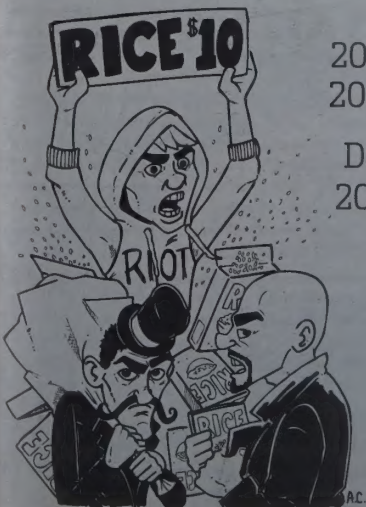
Is it mere coincidence that Canada's access-to-information system has fallen into total disrepair while control freak Stephen Harper has led the government?

BY THE NUMBERS • FOOD PRICES

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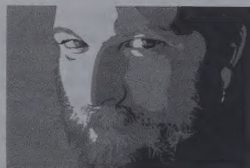
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2009 • 152

December
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POINT OF VIEW • WORLD

Don't Pin Blame On Palin



HIDDEN NINJA FISH GRIWKOWSKY
PUNDITS LIKE PALIN AND GLENN BECK MAKE THE WORLD PRETTY UNPLEASANT, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THEY FORCE OTHERS TO VIOLENCE

Sarah Palin and the map her people created did not shoot Democratic Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, let's be very clear about that. To suggest the image of America peppered with targets is to blame for Jared Lee Loughner's act of rabid murder is akin to hanging teen suicide on heavy metal lyrics.

So even if Loughner says in court, "Sarah Palin and her tactical map triggered me to shoot people in a grocery store," no one's going to suddenly forget about free will. Even free will of the insane, who are actually becoming harder and harder to detect among us, especially across the border. We might wish away the existence of Palin's anti-progressive rhetoric or this creepy mission map

— which some conservatives are frantically "scrubbing" tellingly as containing "prospector's symbols" when everyone bloody well knows what they represent, a military-looking set of locational objectives ... I thought intercontinental ballistic missile targets myself. But the intended point is obvious: a get-tough, philosophical eradication of someone else's point of view about health care, a bit of reactionary political marketing we don't see much of in Canada.

It's true the bizarrely popular Palin still talks about plans for hypothetical death panels — misinformation which may well help convince the mentally imbalanced or just plain stupid they are in immediate mortal danger. But we live in a calloused enough society where to even suggest Palin might consider her rhetoric carefully because of such troubled folk among or outside her followers is to fall into a perfectly laid trap that will get you quickly accused of being a Thought Cop. The Glenn Beck crowd does love its "You know who else didn't let me do and say anything I want? Hitler!" Yeah. Hitler was a real bitch about double parking and EPA standards, too, I hear.

It's this that pisses me off as much as anything: that instant erection of an ass-covering scaffolding after the

shootings, which is somehow supposed to convince us that the crackpots among Republicans and hyper-dramatic Tea Partiers do not thrive in a culture of threats, bullying and endlessly playing the victim, when they are of course statistically far more likely to be the people in power trying to make sure they never, ever have to share it. Put more simply, even when liberals have the puck, they don't use it as tactically as some conservatives. They don't, for example, suggest blocking every single bit of policy Republicans put on the table, even if they agree with it. In elections, Democrats don't suggest voters make noise and disrupt campaign speeches like the Republicans did, as policy. In short, they don't act like fucking monkeys out to destroy co-operative democracy, unless you count Americans as one people, tearing themselves apart like Victorian asylum lunatics.

Fact is, it's the outlandish theatrics and intentional ignorance of a well-documented wedge of current American culture that explains what I said back there about the insane among us becoming harder to detect. Used to be a person dressed like George Washington yelling out declarations of Islamic and communist plots to

TOUGAS can't'd on pg. 8

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* What was Jay-Z's approximate earnings in 2010?

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POINT-OF-VIEW • CITY

Suffering The January Blues



OUTSIDE POLITICS MAURICE YOGAS
**HATRED OF "THE WHITE STUFF" HAS OUR COLUMNISTS
PRETTY DOWN THIS WEEK**

OK, everyone, repeat after me: Canada is a great place to live. Alberta is a great place to live. Edmonton is a great place to live.

Now, just keep saying it, over and over and over again, until you believe it.

It's at a time like this — mid-January, ridiculous amounts of new snow on the ground, deep, bitter, stupid cold — that I question why I live in this Godforsaken frozen hell of a country.

Canada is a great place to live. Alberta is a great place to live. Edmonton is a great place to live.

If I sound a little down, it's because I've got my annual case of the January blues. And by 'blues', I mean 'I hate living in this wretched place'.

I know in my heart that Canada really is a great place to live, and that Edmonton is as good a place as any to live, and demonstrably better than most places in the world. But in January I have a real hard time believing it.

Events like the Great Dump of 2011, following by the deep cold and general crappiness of the past week, stretch my love of Canada and Edmonton to the breaking point.

This past weekend, like many other Edmontonians, I spend most of my time indoors, watching the snow build and build and build. When I wasn't inside, I was outside, moving the snow from one place to another, which strikes me as an incredible waste of energy. After all, if you just wait long enough, all of the snow will remove itself naturally. Why should I be outside stretching muscles that I don't normally use to their snapping point?

I ached for days after the weekend. When I wasn't shovelling mounds of "the white stuff" (why do I own a power lawnmower, but not a snow blower?), I was pushing my son's girlfriend's car out of the snow — at



11:30 p.m. on Saturday night. This little exercise in frustration took about 20 minutes and the combined labours of five men (including a kindly neighbour who came out of his house at that hour to help out, maybe because he wanted to go to sleep and we were making too much noise) to extricate her from the piles of "the white stuff." (By the way, I am using the term "the white stuff" in a purely sarcastic way, as you might have been able to tell by the quotation marks. I am of the opinion that "the white stuff" should be stricken from the linguistic ledger and never used again.)

I could also live with just getting away from Edmonton for a week or two, or maybe a month. Or, say a stretch from Dec. 26 (gotta be here for Christmas) to, oh, say the end of March. That should make it livable here.

Take Australia, for example. I've always thought that Down Under sounds like a very palatable alternative to Up Above, but this year they are suffering through the worst floods in their history. Your house can be surrounded by snow for weeks and do no real harm. Not so when your house is surrounded by water.

Maybe the Sun Belt in the U.S. of A. Maybe a lovely place like Arizona, where any demented weirdo can buy a Glock handgun and shoot politicians and children. Or maybe not.

Going further afield, Haiti's average high for January is 29C, which

sounds a damn site better than -29C. But a 58 degree temperature difference doesn't quite compensate for the fact that a year after their catastrophic earthquake, life there still sucks. Acapulco sounds like a nice getaway location, if you can ignore the 14 decapitated bodies dumped off at a mall in that Mexican resort city on the weekend. I don't know if I could.

Hawaii sounds fantastic, and my brother owns a condo there. Maybe he needs a full-time caretaker. But then there's the ... OK, I can't find a negative about Hawaii, except that I'm not a big fan of poi. But I could learn to live with it.

But that's not going to happen this year, and barring the successful completion of my five-year economic plan (begins and ends with winning a lottery), it's never going to happen. So, I guess the thing to do in Edmonton in January is to make the best of the situation. Maybe I'll take up cross-country skiing, which I'm told is "fun," although how I can't imagine how. Or maybe this snow boarding thing the young people seem to enjoy, what with their flexible, quick-to-recover bodies. Or maybe I'll just hunker down in front of my warm, glowing TV, and wait until spring.

Repeat after me... *Canada is a great place to live. Alberta is a great place to live. Edmonton is a great place to live. Canada is a great place to live. Alberta is a great place to live. Edmonton is a great place to live...*

FISH cont'd from p. 7

kill old people through a bullhorn while would set off some alarm bells. Maybe 10 years ago, even?

You can argue "assassination" is not protest if you like; I disagree. It's a matter of scale. Try and spread out Loughner's motivations all you like, blame the music he listened to instead of more obvious triggers.

My point here is not that the culture within which he lives caused his violent reaction, but that folks like him are becoming undetectable due to an institutionally accepted departure from reality.

It's notable how wingnuts on the left will break windows and paste up conspiratorial notes with little stars to dot their i's and j's — but their nut-

bar counterpoints on the right are a bit more direct, and often better armed. I guess you could bring up Jodie-Foster-obsessed Hinckley as a counter-argument, but progressives usually end up paying the bigger bill — consider the Kennedys, Malcolm X, MLK, Ghandi, Benazir Bhutto ... and this fresh wave of victims in Arizona.

Gopher The Gold With Trans-Alaskan Rodents

STRAIGHT DOPE CECIL ADAMS
CAN GOPHERS BE TRAINED
TO FIND GOLD?

I've found numerous references in Alaskan gold rush literature to a scam by the Trans-Alaskan Gopher Company that purported to sell trained gophers that would dig into the tundra and come back with gold nuggets in their cheeks. There were many cons and swindles in those heady times, but this one seems a bit over the edge credibility-wise. Please help. — Michael in Skagway

Agreed, this sounds dubious. "Gopher the gold"? Please. However, merely getting to the bottom of a historical fine point wasn't a mission to set our pulses pounding. We thought of a potentially more profitable research topic: Could gold extraction via gopher, or some approximation thereof, actually work?

Answer: yes. Before we get into that, however, we've got to kill a 113-year-old joke.

• Although there are lots of recent references to gopher mining ventures in the Klondike, the only one I could find dating from the time of the gold rush (which was actually focused on the Canadian Yukon, not Alaska) turns up in an 1897 book, *Alaska and the Klondike Gold Fields* by A.C. Harris. The book appeared at the height of Klondike fever — although the first Klondike gold was found in 1896, the rush didn't really start till the following year. Not that I'd ever doubt a fellow scribe, but knowing that this 528-page volume was thrown together in a few months doesn't make you think fact-checking was a real priority.

• Harris's discussion of gophers consists in its entirety of the follow-

ing: "Inventors, speculators, promoters, and prospectors are going about like modern geni with propositions for making everybody immensely rich. . . . Shares in the Consolidated Trans-Alaskan Gopher Company, offered at one dollar each, will return dividends of ten dollars a minute as soon as the company gets to work. The idea is to take contracts for tunneling claims with trained gophers. Nothing is impossible, nothing chimerical."

• Come now. Consolidated Trans-Alaskan Gopher Company? We're supposed to believe this enterprise was formed from the merger of two or more previous gopher start-ups? Add in the bit about dividends of ten dollars a minute and it's reasonably clear we're dealing with a 19th-century wise guy. Was it Harris's own gag or something he heard about? Dunno. But no way was this a (so to speak) legit scam.

Here the anal will protest: Isn't it your duty to head up to Skagway, jumping-off point for many would-be Klondike prospectors, to see if you can scare up a C.T.A.G.C. stock certificate? Sorry — that didn't seem like an advantageous use of the beer money. A better idea, we thought, was to look into bioprospecting — the use of plants and animals to find minerals, ideally gold.

Plants are the easier part of this to understand. They take up minerals from the soil, so subjecting them to lab analysis can sometimes tell you

whether there's anything down there worth strip-mining. One Australian shrub is so good at sucking up minerals that if you incinerate its leaves, almost a quarter of the resultant ash is nickel, making it potentially hazardous waste.

Another way to find minerals is looking for so-called indicator plants. For example, early English miners kept an eye out for discolored vegetation or stunted crops, signs of lead deposits near the surface. Plants such as onion, sego-lily, and desert trumpet have been used to find ura-

nium. More pertinently for our purposes, a certain type of wild buckwheat tends to grow over Montana silver deposits.

Alas, though at least 80 different plants have been claimed to be mineral indicators, none has been found to point specifically to gold. True, some indicate arsenic, which is commonly present in gold ore. But we can do better than that. Let's turn to our friends the animals.

• In the fifth century B.C., the Greek historian Herodotus wrote of giant ants "bigger than foxes" in

India who dug up mounds of gold-bearing soil while burrowing. The locals would later extract the gold from the dirt. French ethnologist Michel Peissel says this much-mocked tale is actually true — it's just that "ant" was a mistranslation of the Persian name for the marmot, a type of largish rodent. Peissel claimed in 1996 to have found a high plateau near the India-Pakistan border where marmots burrow into gold-bearing sand, leaving piles which villagers then sift for gold dust.

• Meanwhile, termites in arid lands must dig deep tunnels to get to underground water sources. When they encounter soft ore, they bore right through it and bring the gold-bearing tailings to the surface. Termite mounds have thus been used to detect gold deposits in Africa. In Mali gold is collected directly from the mounds; in Zimbabwe an operation named Termite Mine was opened on a site that the insects had suggested.

Now we're getting somewhere.

Never mind gophers — a more promising business would be the Consolidated Trans-Alaskan Marmot and Termite Company. Could these critters actually be used to find gold in places other than African deserts or Himalayan plateaus? Hell if I know, but I think we've got the makings of a first-class scam.

Send questions to Cecil via straightdope.com or write him c/o Chicago Reader, 11 E. Illinois, Chicago 60611. Subscribe to the Straight Dope podcast at the iTunes Store.



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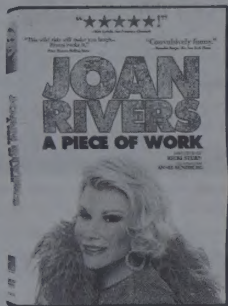
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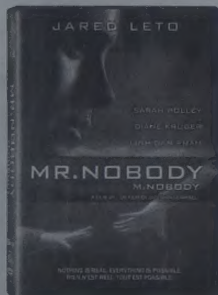
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DINING • CHINESE

The 45 Chilies Kind Of Hot



**A CONFUSING MENU,
NEGLECTED STAFF MAR
AN OTHERWISE OK
EXPERIENCE AT BIRD'S NEST**

BIRD'S NEST OF BEIJING
10425-100th Ave. 780-990-6697

BY SCOTT LINGLEY

Lunch was not panning out. Friday noon hour had turned into a wall of blowing snow I had to push against for four long blocks in order to find out I would not be seated at my eating venue of choice. On the phone an hour earlier I'd been informed they no longer took reservations. When I arrived all the tables in the place were taken but one — which had a RESERVED sign on it. Well fuck you too.

Thing was, I was trying to buy an old pal a birthday lunch. Having been foiled by some ruthless sushi-bar bait-and-switch, we had to develop a plan B. My friend suggested a nearby Chinese place that had a lunchtime buffet — odds are we would find one or two things in that profusion that would be good to eat, he reasoned. Plus he never gets to eat Chinese because his better half thinks the Chinese food he likes is vile.

Into Bird's Nest of Beijing we saunter from the wind-driven snow. Truth be told, Bird's Nest never made it to my list of restaurants I want to try one day. Located in the glassed-in corner of a downtown Comfort Inn, the spot has undergone numerous name and ethnicity changes over the years from Pinocchio's thru El Toro, though it cycles through a Chinese incarnation on a regular basis. I'd taken it for granted that none of them were very good.

Anyway, the first thing that caught our attention in the dim interior was the sight of a decommissioned buffet off to one side — lidless steam trays,

stained with use, stood empty of chafing dishes like huge gaping eye-sockets.

Lunch hour was fast fleeting, however — we needed to sit down and eat something. Other diners were scattered around our window-side table, but not close enough for me to see what their food looked like. The menu was, of course, vast, spanning numerous permutations of meat, veggies, noodles and rice, many with unscripted names unless you already know the difference between Shandong-style and Xinjiang-style. Though a few were set aside under the heading House Specialties, there wasn't much variety in terms of price — everything seemed to be about \$17 except the appetizers, which were cheaper but seemed to be mostly of the variously cooked, seasoned meats ilk.

It was my friend's birthday the next day, and he seldom gets to eat Chinese food (mostly owing to his own degenerate tastes), so it only seemed fair to let him decide on our meal. He thought hot and sour soup (\$9.95) would be a nice way to get

THE TAB: \$35 FOR TWO (FOOD ONLY)

**THE GIST: PROBABLY NOT
WHAT YOU EXPECT
TRY THE: HOT AND SOUR
SOUP**

AVOID: MENU CONFUSION

started, but he wasn't sure about the main course. He pressed our server for elaboration on the contents of two vaguely named dishes. She cautioned that the Grand Chili Chicken (\$24.99) was extremely spicy and suggested a variant that was less potent — at least that's what she seemed to be saying. She also took our order for steamed rice.

Well, the soup was pretty good — thick, dark and multifarious, with lots of bamboo, shredded carrot and egg, a reasonable amount of heat and sourness, and the odd stray shrimp. The soup was entirely creditable as an example of the form and just the

thing for two famished boys who had just staggered through a growing blizzard.

The main course we were not prepared for — a roughly hubcap-off-a-pickup-sized ceramic dish of chicken on the bone smothered in spicy brown sauce tossed with, like a hundred whole dried red chili peppers over broad ribbon pasta. Given the better part of a day to do the job, the two of us could not have finished this much food. But what else were we going to do? We had to try. But first we cancelled our double order of rice.

The food actually smelled great, most likely because it was teeming with entire stars of anise, long slices of fresh ginger and whole cloves of garlic simmered to sweet, buttery bursts of flavour.

But it was also quite spicy, the kind of spicy that builds and builds with every bite, steadily overwhelming the soothing starch-with which it's paired until your eyewells fill with sweat and you pretty much can't taste anything anymore.

My friend went back for seconds in any event, but I had to respect the limits of my gastrointestinal system. The kindly owner stopped by to note that we had ordered a lot of food, and that the server should have mentioned that.

When we got the bill, we saw that we had indeed been served the very dish we were cautioned against ordering. At least we each had a brimming take-out container of the stuff to go.

Those leftovers took on an ungodly potency sitting in my fridge and I quickly found out why — I counted no less 45 whole red chilies in the quarter-portion I took home.

In the end, I can't fault Bird's Nest of Beijing for our poor handling of their menu.

But if part of the responsibility of servers is to guide diners toward an optimal dining experience, my co-diner and I could obviously have used a little more help. Also, they might stop boasting about a lunch buffet in large, cartoony lettering in their windows, the better to manage

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Reviewed Recently

ALLEGRO ITALIAN KITCHEN

10011 109th St. (780) 424-6644

THE TAB: \$50 for two (food only)

THE GIST: Some things change, quality remains the same at Italian standby.

TRY: Penne con salsa (\$18.95)

BLUE CHAIR CAFE

9674 76th Ave. (780) 989-2861

THE TAB: \$70 for two (food only)

THE GIST: Enjoy the food, listen to music.

TRY: Show-night special supper

CACTUS CLUB CAFE

West Edmonton Mall (780) 489-1002

THE TAB: \$28 for one (food only)

THE GIST: Surprising substance beneath all that style.

TRY: Four mushroom steak

CAFE BEIRUT

10812 82nd Ave. (780) 988-8821

THE TAB: \$30 for two

THE GIST: Authentic, affable, affordable Lebanese cuisine.

TRY: Mezze for two

CULINA HIGHLANDS

6509 112th Ave. (780) 477-2422

THE TAB: \$90 for two (with wine)

THE GIST: What are you waiting for?

TRY: Lamb Koftas (\$26)

FAMOSO NEAPOLITAN PIZZERIA

13655 St. Albert Trail (780) 732-0222

THE TAB: \$30 for two (food only)

THE GIST: Rising local chain gets pizza exactly right.

TRY: Bella pizza with roasted mushrooms

FATBURGER

South Edmonton Common (780) 469-8180

THE TAB: \$16.25

THE GIST: A kingly burger, but at what cost?

TRY: Kingburger with cheese

GINI'S

10706 142nd St. (780) 451-1169

THE TAB: \$110 for two (food only)

THE GIST: Hidden gem status confirmed.

TRY: Traditional fish soup

INDIA VILLAGE

11835 St. Albert Trail (780) 455-6590

THE TAB: \$28 for two (food only)

THE GIST: Solid Indian eats priced to move.

TRY: Vegetarian selection

IRIE FOODS & LABISH BAR

10152A 82nd Ave. (780) 757-2022

THE TAB: \$50 for two (food only)

THE GIST: Caribbean eatery finding its feet

TRY: Inedible bits

KABUKI

8724 109th St. (780) 437-0077

THE TAB: \$30 for two (food only)

THE GIST: Blame not the Garneau sushi underdog.

TRY: Magic tuna

KARMA INDIAN BISTRO

10523 99th Ave. (780) 498-2092

THE TAB: \$40 for two (food only)

THE GIST: Nice house — but what do I know?

TRY: Palak Pancer

LOS COMALES

10824 97th St. (780) 423-1213

THE TAB: \$28 for two (food only)

THE GIST: Basically tasty central American fare.

TRY: Pupusas (\$2.95 each)

MMM...PHO!

8205 83rd St. (780) 756-6688

THE TAB: \$34 for two

THE GIST: Bonnie Doon, your pho is ready.

TRY: Beef short ribs

MORIARTY'S BISTRO AND WINE BAR

10154 100th St. (780) 757-2005

THE TAB: \$90 for three (food only)

THE GIST: Affordable extravagance — wine is extra.

TRY: Hazel nut mahi mahi with lobster truffle risotto

MOSHI MOSHI JAPANESE CUISINE

15041 Stony Plain Road (780) 484-1661

THE TAB: \$50 for two (food only)

THE GIST: A Japanese delight for most of the senses.

TRY: Tiger prawn gyoza and toro sushi

OIL LAMP: UNIQUE DINING

10247 97th St. (780) 429-0808

THE TAB: \$45 for two

THE GIST: Unexpected Oasis on 97th Street.

TRY: Lunch special

SAPPORO SUSHI

10923 101st St. (780) 758-8819

THE TAB: \$25.99 (all you can eat)

THE GIST: Eat all you can.

TRY: Fried squid

THANH TAM VIETNAMESE NOODLE HOUSE

11121 156th St. (780) 447-3360

THE TAB: \$22 for two (food only)

THE GIST: Standard Viet food, only less so

TRY: Kim Chi

THE DISH

12417 Stony Plain Road (780) 488-6641

THE TAB: \$46 for two (food only)

THE GIST: Comfort food and proud of it.

TRY: Lamb stew

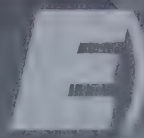
URBAN DINER

12427 102nd Ave. (780) 488-7274

THE TAB: \$40 for two (food only)

THE GIST: They make it so easy.

TRY: Daily special



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“THE CHANGES MADE THE FILM MORE AUTHENTIC TO MORDECAI, AND TO MONTREAL, WHICH IS WHERE HE LIVED AND SET MOST OF HIS STORIES — INCLUDING THIS ONE.”



Paul Giamatti (Left) stars as the titular character in the cinematic adaptation of Mordecai Richler's Canadian fiction classic, *'Barney's Version.'* Dustin Hoffman (Right) shines as Barney's rather dissolute father. | PHOTO SUPPLIED

A CANADIAN CLASSIC COMES TO LIFE ON THE BIG SCREEN

BY KENTON SMITH

Paul Giamatti may have a thing for Canadian icons

"I'd love to be in a David Cronenberg movie," laughs the Oscar-nominated star, who's latest onscreen role is as the titular character of *Barney's Version*, based upon the 1997 novel by celebrated Canadian author Mordecai Richler. (Cronenberg himself, famous for such films as *The Fly* and *A History of Violence*, even has a cameo.)

It's a character Giamatti says he knew a lot of Canadian readers held dear — although for him the Giller Prize winning novel was his first real introduction to Richler, who died in 2001.

"I was aware of him, but had never read him previously," Giamatti says. "It's a juicy, incredible book."

Of course, Richler is known as both personal and artistic iconoclast as much as icon — a perception reinforced by Charles Foran's new biography, *Mordecai: The Life and Times*, according to a review in the *Montreal Gazette*. Perhaps that's why, as the review also notes, there is by comparison so much more critical scholarship on other national literary luminaries, such as Margaret Atwood.

Richler was well known, for instance, for raising the ire of Quebec separatists, especially through his ridicule of the province's language police in no less than *The New York Times* (he made sure to do it in *Barney's Version*, too, in which he also chronicled non-Francophone anxiety on the eve of the 1995 Referendum).

So hated does Richler remain that even this past November, Mario Beaulieu of the Montreal branch of the Société St-Jean Baptiste told *The Canadian Press* he will oppose renaming a Montreal street or library after Richler, calling the author "an anti-Quebec racist."

Even Richler's widow, Florence, confirms that Barney Panofsky is essentially Richler's alter ego. But how much of the Richler legend, and how much of the man, has actually made it into the film adaptation?

For Giamatti it was mostly a question of sticking to the screenplay "I didn't want to get caught up in how the character is written in the book," he says, "because it is quite different."

"I did refer to it, though."

"I never thought of putting those separatist elements in the script," screenwriter Michael Konyves says. "First of all, that whole business would never have played outside of Canada, for non-Canadian audiences."

"But also, it wasn't really germane to the essence of the character — and the reason I loved the book was, it's a great character study. What I wanted to do was make Barney to come across like a real person."

Both the book and film turn around Barney's matrimonial misadventures: the turning point comes during his wedding to the second Mrs. Panofsky, when wouldn't you know it, he meets the woman of his dreams, Miriam (played in the film by Rosamund Pike), at the reception that same night.

Whether he gets the girl is in fact only the half of it; the real question is, can the hardworking, driven-to-succeed Barney take care of what he manages to win for himself?

There's no question that it's precisely Barney as hard-drinking, cigar smoking Richler-esque anachronism that has caused many to embrace the book.

"*Barney's Version* is a personal paean that delights in skewering and roasting the self-righteous advocates of postmodern political relativism," wrote *Books in Canada* about the novel. So successful was the book in Italy, that the newspaper *Il Foglio* started running a column called *Barney's Version*, written as if by the irascible character himself.

"Barney's definitely not that kind of right-wing guy," Konyves says. "Although of course you don't have to be to send up politi-

cal correctness."

But the screenwriter agrees, the character's political incorrectness is in no way a reflection of self-assurance.

"Barney is pretty self-loathing, yes," Konyves says. And he acknowledges it: "I dislike most people I have ever met, but not nearly so much as I am disgusted by the Rt. Dishonourable Barney Panofsky," reads one passage in the first-person novel.

"He's very critical, but only because he's very aware of how people see him," Konyves continues. "I definitely wanted to translate that self-loathing to the screenplay."

Konyves also agrees Barney is the classic tragic figure, in that his greatest strength — his insecurity — is what pushes him to succeed ... only to become the cause of his ultimate downfall.

"That's a lot more common among people than not," Konyves says. "We're each usually our own undoing."

"And Barney ultimately understands that about himself."

For the American Giamatti, what's interesting about both film and book is their shared and distinctive Canadian-ness. "I'd never been to Montreal before," he says. "God, I loved that city — there's certainly no other like it, in North America anyway."

"And you get a funny, very intimate entrée to a city when you're there on location for a movie. You're filming in people's homes, or in places where people might not ever find themselves. It provides a very different angle."

Other changes only enhanced the film's faithfulness. "The bar in the film, Grumpy's is the actual bar Richler went to — it was his watering hole," Konyves explains. "The bar in the book, Dink's, was really intended to be Grumpy's."

"The change made the film more authentic to Mordecai, and to Montreal, which is where he lived and set most of his stories — including this one."

There's no question then that Richler's spirit inhabits the film in more ways than one. Oh, Konyves adds, and the building where Barney has an apartment?

It's the same one where Mordecai and Florence used to live.

FILM • REVIEW

Adaptation Is Lite 'Version'



Barney's lady troubles are a central plot element in the movie adaptation of Richler's novel. (PHOTO SUPPLIED)

STRONG PERFORMANCES ABOUND IN FAITHFUL ADAPTATION

BARNEY'S VERSION
In theatres Jan. 14
★★★★☆

BY TONY KING

Paul Giamatti stars in this adaptation of Mordecai Richler's novel that tells the story of Barney Panofsky, a ne'er do well, who happens to step into his father's business as a film and television producer.

Blessed with a natural ability to fall into all of life's potholes, Barney is

es, only to stumble onto the woman of his dreams, the lovely Miriam – played capably, if not with a certain ethereal quality by Rosamund Pike.

Though Barney settles into a comfortable life managing his production company, Totally Unnecessary Productions (perhaps summing up Richler's feelings on the business of television), and embraces children and marriage with a certain grizzled zeal, we just know that eventually he is going to screw up.

Without unveiling too much of the plot, suffice it to say that *Barney's Version* is a well-crafted story that shares much of the wily cynicism of

uisite level of depth.

Many of the press have characterized Giamatti's fleshing out of Barney as simply mean spirited, but that's not really the way he comes off at all: maybe it's Giamatti's "puppy-dog like" visage, or perhaps it's Barney's witty repartee that makes him oddly endearing.

In any case we find ourselves feeling somewhat sympathetic to Barney's mostly misguided actions, and his sardonic manner.

The star of the show however is Dustin Hoffman; he delivers a scene stealing performance as Barney's street weary, ex-cop father, given to

THE STAR OF THE SHOW HOWEVER IS DUSTIN HOFFMAN: HE DELIVERS A SCENE STEALING PERFORMANCE AS BARNEY'S STREET WEARY, EX-COP FATHER, GIVEN TO TELLING STORIES ABOUT HIS DUBIOUS CONDUCT WITH THE MONTREAL POLICE FORCE AND CASTING A FURTIVE GLANCE AT EVERY WOMAN IN THE ROOM.

quick with a witty comeback, and just as expeditious to refill his glass

and snip the end off a Cristo cigar.

The elliptical narrative opens with Giamatti's character reflecting on one of those seminal moments that has an everlasting impact on one's life – an affair with a rather tempestuous woman in Italy who becomes his wife and to whom he is bound to through paternal obligation.

This sense of obligation, paired with a free-wheeling bohemianism is the paradigm that Barney battles with through most of the film, as he bumbles in and out of two marriag-

Mordecai Richler's novel.

The problem is that through all of Barney's trials and tribulations, the movie, though faithful to the Richler story, comes off as slightly watered down made for TV version of the novel.

One does not like to dwell in perpetuity on comparisons between the book and the movie – as that's a dangerous game to play – suffice it to say that though this *Barney's Version* is a lovely movie, the grit of Richler's pen is absent here.

That said, the performances are top notch. Paul Giamatti digs into the Barney character, adding the req-

telling stories about his dubious conduct with the Montreal Police Force and casting a furtive glance at every woman in the room. Hoffman brings his sparkling dialogue to life with his usual brilliance, but it's more than just that: his comic timing is right on the mark. He is the jewel in an otherwise average affair. Speeding along through the demarcations and ups and downs of a life, *Barney's Version* is a brilliant story, told capably by Lewis and his team, though one has the feeling that the complex palette of Richler's story could have been fleshed out with a little more raw energy than we see in Lewis' film.



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FILM • PREVIEW

Exploring The Unimaginable



Nicole Kidman and Aaron Eckhart star as a couple recovering from the tragic death of their young son in 'Rabbit Hole'. | PHOTO SUPPLIED

A FANTASTIC ENSEMBLE CAST IS GIVEN ROOM TO DELIVER CONSISTENTLY OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES IN NICOLE KIDMAN'S LATEST PROJECT

RABBIT HOLE
Event details
★★★★☆

BY ALISTAIR HENNING

Now here's a movie plot sure to cause audiences, not to mention marketers, to flee in droves: after their four-year-old son has died in an accident, a couple tries to preserve their marriage.

riage

But wait: there's much more to *Rabbit Hole*, based on a Pulitzer Prize winning play by David Lindsay-Abaire.

Nicole Kidman saw the play and loved it, and it's her production company that roped *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* director Jonathan Cameron Mitchell into directing this funny as well as moving flick.

Here, Kidman gives a remarkably restrained and moving performance, surely her best work since *The Hours*. Of course, it helps that she's playing to her strength: here, again, Kidman plays a woman so brittle it

seems as if a slight wind would make her snap.

As her husband, Howie, Aaron Eckhart is equally amazing but clearly lacks that ineffable 'star power': Kidman was recently nominated for a SAG award for her performance; he wasn't.

Nevertheless, both their performances deliver the depth of loss without grandstanding. Kidman's loss has created a vacuum where her character used to be: she's become a compressed, inward-focussed ball of pain. Howie senses he's losing his wife as well as their son; angry explosions punctuate his resignation. Eckhart has never been better than in this modulated performance.

The smaller roles shine also. As Becca's working class mother, Dianne Wiest is enlivening, eager to help by saying the most unfortunately wrong things. Sandra Oh, as a mother in the support group, is by turns quietly touching, and witty too. As the teenage boy who drove the car that hit the couple's son, Miles Teller is very good as an average kid whose sudden acquaintance with guilt has left him decades older than his peers.

The film feels like a big switch for campy director John Cameron Mitchell, whose previous expeditions

Short Bus and *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* were long on memorableness and short on subtlety. Mitchell lets his stars control the picture, and they bring out a full range of emotion. It's as if Cassavetes returned from the grave to direct this picture, but developed way more restraint and focus in his posthumous age.

Some might say *Rabbit Hole* is formless. But this is a story that's rarely told, and one that doesn't easily stay within a traditional narrative structure. Notwithstanding the fastidious attempts of therapists everywhere, how do you routinize grief into neat stages, let alone convenient dramatic flourishes?

Likewise, this is not a film that shies away from difficult questions of faith and mortality. Refreshingly, there's no irreverence to let viewers off the hook.

Yet the screenplay tosses in enough humour to banish total grimness, especially when Oh's character and Howie get stoned and giggly in a school parking lot instead of sharing their grief at the meeting inside.

It's this levelling that ultimately makes *Rabbit Hole*: Mitchell, Kidman and Eckhart have created an enormously moving film that is, in the end, unexpectedly buoyant.

FILM • PREVIEW

Chaplin Classics In Town



Early cinema great Charlie Chaplin gets some serious time monkeying around in 'The Circus', showing at Metro. | PHOTO SUPPLIED

RESTORED PRINTS OF SOME OF THE GREATEST MOMENTS IN EARLY FILM HISTORY ARE SHOWING IN EDMONTON

THE CIRCUS & PAYDAY

Metro Cinema, Jan. 14 and 16

BY **BARRY HAMMOND**

When Janus Films, the art-house distributor closely associated with The Criterion Collection, acquired the rights to Charlie Chaplin's films in 2010, their first act was to launch a touring retrospective of classic Chaplin films in newly restored 35mm prints.

Edmonton's Metro Cinema will be running a selection of these films over the next couple of weekends. If you want to see truly marvellous examples of how classic framing and camera placement can contribute to storytelling and selling a gag, you can't do any better than these films. Rather than concentrating on the much-written-about masterpieces like *City Lights* (1931), *The Great Dictator* (1940), *Modern Times* (1936), or *The Gold Rush* (1925) this critic has decided to focus on a couple of the lesser-known programs.

By all means, go see as many of these shows as possible, especially the masterpieces listed above, but don't forget these gems either.

The Circus (1928) was the first film to win Chaplin an Oscar (though they weren't called that back then and the award was a special honorary

one for "versatility in acting, writing, directing and producing").

The film has several classic sequences from the surreal "washing a fish," gag to the highlight of Chaplin being swarmed by monkeys while on the high wire. The monkeys run all over him, pulling his pants down and leaving him exposed.

Many critics have speculated that this sequence reflected Chaplin's life at the time, as it apparently came to him in a dream and he was going through a painful divorce from Lita Grey but it's mainly amazing because it looks to be achieved without special effects—the monkeys really appear to be biting his nose and so on. It must have required many takes and much perseverance (and probably pain) to get the required footage.

The mirror-maze scene reflects cinema's fascination with mirrors and similar sequences have been a staple in films ever since, from Orson Welles' *The Lady From Shanghai* (1947) to *Enter The Dragon* (1973), *The Man With The Golden Gun* (1974), *The Shadow* (1994) and even a 1999 Honda commercial. *The Circus* may also contain the first film reference to the comedian as a sad clown.

Then there's the broken hoop circle which becomes a symbol of crushed dreams from when the heroine is knocked through it at the beginning by the cruel ringmaster to Charlie's crumpling it up at the end and walking away into the mist. It is also a

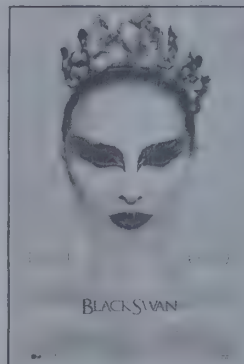
film that's self-referential in a post-modernist sense in that it's about a classic comedian examining what makes people laugh.

Chaplin recorded the film's present soundtrack (he was also its composer) in the 1960's, which included singing the title song, "Swing, Little Girl." The number seems to refer to his own music hall background, as well as the star's attraction to younger women. Merna Kennedy, who plays the girl of the song's title, was only eighteen when she made this picture and had a short career, dying of a heart attack at 36.

Pay Day (1922) is a lesser, earlier film made when he was under contract to First National Exhibitor's Circuit. The two main sequences are the backwards printed scene of him catching bricks with incredible dexterity and the dumbwaiter scenes of the food being stolen from various people, both of which are classics of comic timing.

The leading lady here is Edna Purviance, who was in more Chaplin films than any other female lead. He kept her on his payroll after her retirement, and showed her more kindness and consideration than he did many of his ex-wives. In Chaplin, the 1992 Richard Attenborough biography film starring Robert Downey Jr., she was played by Penelope Ann Miller.

Next week we'll take a look at the program of *A Dog's Life*, *Shoulder Arms* and *The Pilgrim*.



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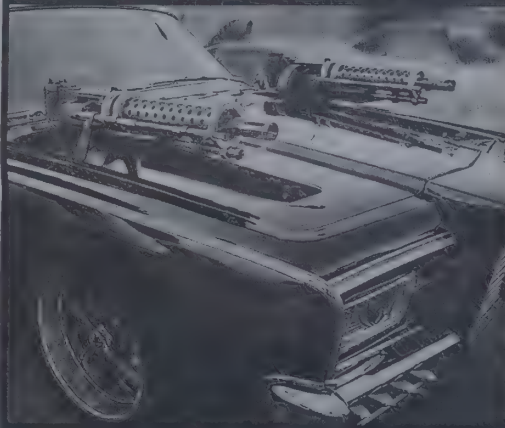
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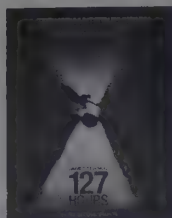
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FREE MUSIC • PROFILE

Freebies And Fortunes



Do you know what you're doing when you consume free music? You might just be taking that DJ's legs. | ILLUSTRATION BY ANDY COOKSON

IS FREE MUSIC JUST THE WAY IT IS? ARTISTS MAY HAVE MORE CONTROL, BUT THE INDUSTRY MIGHT BE OUT OF IT.

BY TRENT WILKIE

The concept of free music is nothing new. Radiohead has done it. Trent Reznor of NIN has too. Roland Pemberton (Cadence Weapon) loves to put out his mixed tapes and even local boys, The Cygnets, did a free show at Pawn Shop while giving a free album to everyone in attendance. With the days of buying a Mac, teaching yourself how to use a recording program, and throwing your music up (pun intended) on Myspace upon us, artists are finding it easier to get their music out there. But is this akin to breaking the dam for a glass of water? Mike Angus of The Wheat Pool shares his thoughts on the concept of "free" music.

"I like the fact that technology helps put more creativity and control into the hands of the artist, but that also means art has become more 'disposable'," says Angus. "There are more people making art — which, ideally, means there's a better chance of the most talented and relevant artists getting heard. Technology has made music more accessible (to create and hear), but it's a shame the way that somehow translates into 'free.' I consistently encourage artists around me to place a value on what they do — there's no shame in getting paid for what you're good at

— anyone who professes the opposite I think is weird."

It is still up in the air whether free music and DIY recording will lead to success. And the axiom that self-produced is free is a bit of a misnomer. After all, that computer doesn't buy itself. Mike Robertson, currently of the band Paper Ghosts and writer/film maker with Highwire films still sees the problems that new technology brings. Just because it is easier to make doesn't make it easier to get out there.

"Trent Reznor has the money to do this, while the Cygnets, they are just trying to guess where the record industry is going, but nobody really knows," Robertson points out. "There is less value to me when I get it for free. Look at posterizing and publicizing for events and compare it to Facebook event invites. Nobody cares about Facebook anymore. When we do Hangtime at the Blackdog (a free event that has both music and comedy), the only reason we have the success we do is because our friends come and there happens to be people in the bar all the time. If we did it at another venue and only advertised on Facebook nobody would go to it. A poster makes something more like the real deal. It makes it all the more tangible."

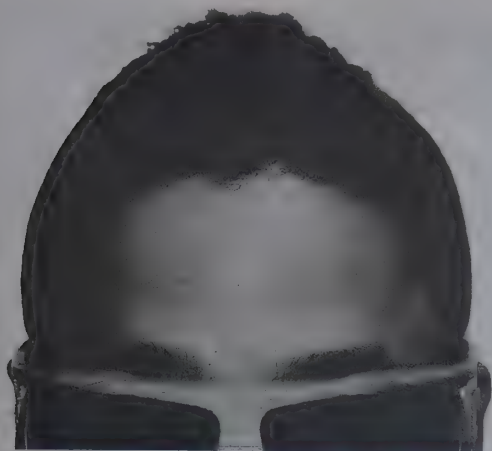
"I think artists should have the ability to take it into their own hands so they risk both the rewards and the failures," adds Robertson. "The guy who has the record label support

doesn't have to worry about the business aspect of the music, whereas the guy making music in his basement who wants people to care about his stuff has to give a rat's ass about the business side. With that said, do people starting out have to give away their music for free? I'm not sure. People should be able to hear it for free, but in terms of actually owning a copy of it... I don't know."

How to succeed, as if an ethical and moral statute, will always be debated. It is so old that it is hard not to become nostalgic.

"As much as we have advanced technologically in music, we still use it to profess our love of what's come before," Angus says. "We simulate vintage amps, tape warbles, and reverb tanks digitally, because we have yet to improve on the sonic quality of those real instruments from 50 years ago. We prefer Guitar Hero to learning how to play the guitar because we'd rather hear what we already know. For all our consumer demands on technology and its role in music and society, we've somehow lost our sense of inventiveness. We've mistaken digital progress as a culture of creativity unto itself, forgetting that it's merely a vessel for art. McLuhan was right, I guess. I am aware how elitist and snobby these remarks can sound and I am OK with that. Art ought to aim high."

And just how high should you aim? I guess to some people it doesn't matter how much it costs.



SEE & DO • FOREMOST & FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN EDMONTON

The Joe

Haven Social Club | Friday, Jan. 14, 7:30 p.m.

Who is this Joe character and why is he 'The'? He's an alternative-rapper (people love saying they're into alternative rap, by the way). He's the owner of Edmonton's own OLD UGLY Recording Co. and, would you look at that, he's releasing a very-brand-new album titled *Float or Fail* on his very own label. It's mile-a-minute madness and proves that he is very clever and has some sort of dagger-tongue.

The Joe is bringing out some guests to the Haven Social Club as well. Namely, Bike Month who is the super-alias of Doug Hoyer and his DJ Shadow/Avalanche-esque side project, Mitchmatic (real name: Mitch), and Raccoon Suit, who presumably don raccoon attire — faux raccoon and proves that he is very clever and has some sort of dagger-tongue.

The Joe likes to refer to himself as a genius, which we'll be the judge of, thank you very much. Not only that, those that are actual geniuses, don't boast. Anyways...get your gear/friends together and go watch Joseph strut his smart stuff at the Haven. They serve drinks! And alternative-rap!

Felix Da Housecat

Empire Ballroom | Friday, Jan. 14, 9 p.m.

When you want something bad enough, you'll make it happen (talent doesn't hurt either). Felix Da Housecat did just that. Strapped with talent and youthful vigor, Felix headed to London to meet up with record labels face-to-face when things weren't working/executives weren't listening. That's moxie.

It's safe to say that this housecat is no joke now. After releasing many-a-mixtape and cutting even more studio tracks, Felix is a fine purveyor of house jams most noted for both bringing it to the house and bringing that very same house down.

Starting with the 2001 album, *Kittenz and thee Glitz*, all the way to the multi-genre sound map of *Virgo Blakro and the Movie Disco*, Felix Da Housecat brings enough energy and crossover appeal to get even the non-house head dancing. Slight warning though: *Virgo Blakro* has a pretty 'porn-like' feel — we're unsure how exactly one (or more) dance to this, but you should do it. As-

suming it's legal and very safe, of course.

Sundance Fundance

ARTery | Saturday, Jan. 15

Trevor Anderson, Fish Griwkowsky and friends made short film. Turns out it is turning a lot of heads. Last year it turned heads in Los Angeles at the American Film Institute's AFI Fest in L.A. "The High Level Bridge" received an honourable mention for best short film. Not bad, not bad at all. But the good fortune continues as the High Level team has been accepted into the renowned Sundance Film Festival. And what better way to celebrate than to dance?

Although the filmmakers are wonderful dancers, their dancing skills cannot single-handedly pay all the Sundance bills. And Sundance Fundance is born. For a suggested minimum donation of \$10 you may or may not get a chance to witness Trevor Anderson and Fish have an epic dance off. Not saying it's going to be the best thing you've ever seen, but it should be noteworthy and full of dancey-pointers. *Note: neither Trevor or Fish has agreed to any sort of dance off, however, we're calling them out right now. Note 2: Fish has a severely injured leg, so

dance-off might take place in a comfy chair* Doors are at 8 p.m. and the dancing shall commence. At 10 p.m. there will be a special screening of "The High Level Bridge," followed by a couple special announcements. After the screening, more dance-chaos shall occur. There will be silent art and merch auctions throughout the eve. Dance hosts include: DJ Sideponytail, DJ Amy van Keeken, and Fish (feat. DJ Powerslav and DJ Psycho Sematic).

Winter Roots and Blues Roundup

Various Venues | Feb. 24 - 28, 2011

By February 24th all of the snow will be melted and road conditions will be a-plus; you read it hear first. This is great timing, actually, because folkwaysAlive! at the University of Alberta and Peter North happily announced the second edition of the Winter Roots and Blues Roundup which kicks off Feb. 24 with "The Women of Folkways" concert at the Yardbird.

Following the kick off, the five-day event will be full of concerts, film screenings, seminars and workshops at various venues.

78-year old, Grammy-nominated, Rosale Sorrels will perform. Sorrels is a leader in activism, a heavy-hitter in the beat poetry scene and has performed and recorded with Utah Phillips, Pete Seeger, Studs Terkel and Hunter S. Thompson, to name an amazing few. An interview with Sorrels is also on tap for the folkwaysAlive! festival. Bela Fleck and his musical journey through Africa was documented in *Throw Down Your Heart* and will be shown as part of the festival. The film, which is getting amazing reviews, details Fleck's trip to Africa where he looks to discover the true origins of the prized banjo.

Other highlights of the Roundup include a panel on Social and Political Activism in Music, a new documentary on Folkways Records, and acoustic performances by Bill Bourne, David Gogo, Kat Danser, and John Rutherford. Californian artists will make the journey to Edmonton in February as well. Bonnie Raitt's right-hand man and "No Nukes" frontliner, Freebo will perform a set while Lowell Levinger (aka Grandpa Banana), a collector of rare and vintage stringed instruments will perform.

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LISTEN • BY FISH GRIWKOWSKY

M.I.A.

Vicki Leekx

Seen somehow as redemption from her perfectly awesome last album, *VA*, this 36-minute mixtape is back to M.I.A. basics: evocatively filthy, defiant and more than a little bitchy with lines about your shoes being able to feed a village. It's one long rave jam, the best songs within being the Hindi-bot "Let Me Hump You" which now plagues my dreams, and the head-spinning "Bad Girls," which is as mean as a stranger's tongue in your ear at the bar and also has the distinct taste of sweaty Baliwood sex. "My chain hits my chest when I'm banging on the dashboard." Jesus Christ, are you paid to give me a boner? Oh, that's right. Anyone know how to split songs out of single track? This savage shit needs to infiltrate.

★★★★☆

R. Kelly

Love Letter

Can't tell if we should like a song about music being a lady and how its singer is about to bang it, but let's err on the side of frigid caution here. It's weird. Like a lot of R. Kelly, the new one straddles a place halfway between fucking hilarious and painfully serious, which is also fucking hilarious. The man clearly sees himself as some sexual-superhero combination of Ray Charles, Michael Jackson, Marvin Gaye — and at times his ability to produce a pop song is clearly on par with those fellas ... in their later-career B-sides, at least. Take "How Do I Tell Her," which closes the album. It's ridiculously emotional and

self-centred, assuming the girl he's about to dump will "break down and die" when she gets the news. But on the other hand,

Kelly handles it kind of beautifully, yelling "How?" over and over at his predicament. But why is he moving on? There doesn't seem to be another woman or world war involved ... it's like he's ditching the unlucky girl just for the sake of being able to yell into the night.

"Number One Hit," on the other hand, while hokey as hot country, and while also another song where R. Kelly has decided who he most wants to make love to is his own songs, is just so solidly crafted.

I guess you could call this brilliant, unwitting satire, sort of like American politics these days. Whatever the case, I wildly changed the rating three times, so let's just give 'er a three.

★★★★☆

OLD SCHOOL

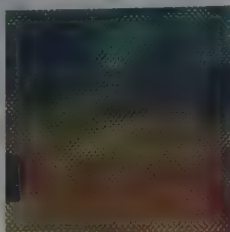
Full Tilt on K-Tel Records [1980]

Finally! I've been looking for this record you probably had in your basement for 20 years, and Calgary's Recordland paid me off (while the owner insulted me for asking for help finding it). Lost or stolen, this was the first adult record I ever owned, forging my taste forever with "Drugs in My Pocket." Blondie's

"Atomic" and the fairly racist "Turning Japanese." And the cover font makes me come. It's interesting how the world's gone K-Tel compilation again as most of us now listen to music on our own custom playlists, often on shuffle. iTunes can suck a dick, though. Give me a skipping Kenny Loggins any day.

★★★★★

CD • REVIEWS



BRAIDS

Native Speaker

(Flemish Eye)

★★★★☆

Bands claiming to be influenced by Animal Collective usually end up churning out bombastic drivel, and you would think a bunch of Calgarian-turned-Montréal teenagers would top that list. But you'd be wrong. *Native Speaker* reflects the aforementioned Pitchfork darlings' eclectic soundscapes in a refreshingly modest way. With tracks averaging six minutes, Braids craft music with a nurturing patience, coaxing repeated riffs and hooks into a gradual, subtle perfection. Hypnotically crisp arrangements allow instrumental strands — individually simple — to be woven into a richly dynamic, pulsating tapestry of sound. Lead vocalist Raphaëlle

Standell-Preston is a fragile yet commanding presence, oscillating from soothing whispers to golden radiance. Tracks like "Plath Heart", with its muted drums, dynamic synth lines, avant-garde melodies and candid vocals, exemplify the best of experimental pop — although one can argue that all of *Native Speaker* has done just that.

CHRIS LIU



CYGNETS

Bleak Anthems

(Independent)

★★★★☆

New wave is alive and well in these Edmonton boys without being obnoxious hipsters. Cygnets might be the best band in Edmonton right now. The high energy shows and brilliantly crafted pop songs captures and hold ransom whoever perks up their ears. Logan Turner's vocals have the sense of tone and timing of New Order's Bernard Sumner while having the charms and wit of Morrissey. Chris Bruce's guitar work in phenomenal. It's more indie rock than '80s pop but it fills out the band's sound and gives them an interesting taste. The chorus riff in "The First Time She Came" is probably the catchiest thing I have ever heard. "Bleak Decades" is the track that best defines the band's sound. It's tackles dark themes but remains a song that anyone can dance to. Don't think twice about picking up this record.

CHRIS SCHIEMAN



MARK RONSON & THE BUSINESS INTL

Record Collection

(RCA)

★★★★☆

After the release of *Version*, a languid money grab for the pop culture masses, it was unclear if Mark Ronson could create something lasting rather than replicating already established hits. *Record Collection* finds Ronson earnestly churning out a blend of hip-hop and pop music, tinged with an '80s flavour. Following the path that Handsome Boy Modeling School and N.A.S.A. had laid out before him, "Bang Bang" features Amanda Warner's rich poppy vocals over Q-Tip's lyrical handiwork. "Lose It (In The End)" features crisp, percussive production from Ronson, and brilliant vocals by Ghostface Killah. Ronson shines on instrumental tracks "Circuit Breaker" and "Selector", the former a homage to 16-bit culture and the latter a hollow and sonic journey worthy of London's nightlife. It seems that after years of making hits for others (and playing major label karaoke), Ronson has finally found his place both behind the scenes and on the stage.

ANDY COOKSON



WYATT, ATZMON & STEPHEN

For the Ghosts Within

(Domino)

★★★★☆

I'm a pretty big hater. I don't dole out glowing reviews all Willy-nilly so take it from me when I tell you that this album is amazing. Even though the majority of *For the Ghosts Within* is re-interpretations of old jazz songs, the new compositions by Wyatt, Atzmon, and Stephen ("The Ghost Within", "Lullaby for Irena," etc.) fit seamlessly with the rest of the tracks. This is part jazz, part bandstand, part klezmer and

part hip-hop. The song "Where are they now?" features rappers Shadia Mansour and Abboud spitting hot fire in Arabic. The music is strange at times, experimental and psychedelic, like early Floyd or King Crimson meets Satchmo. Robert Wyatt's soft and vulnerable voice makes a version of one of the most overplayed songs in the history of music: "What a Wonderful World", worth listening to.

NATHAN USHER



THE BAD PLUS

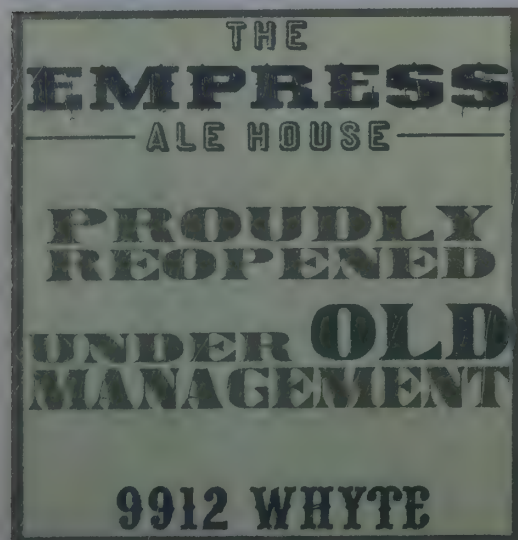
Never Stop

(live)

★★★★☆

Three faces grace the cover. Tired from having spent too much time on the road, they sit in some Nixonian diner, endlessly waiting for breakfast that never arrives, a brief respite before returning to the grind. This is a sentiment we can all relate to. Eat, sleep, commute. However, it belies the music contained within. Joyful, exuberant, and full of life, *Never Stop* finds The Bad Plus removed from the brilliant satire of "Iron Man" and playing some of the most inspired music of their career. The interplay between piano, drums, and bass is exhilarating while the music itself retains an experimental, melodic context. Technical, but never unnecessarily so, each piece feels fully realized and complete — a stark contrast to the nihilistic wankery frequently associated with jazz. Unquestionably one of the most uncompromisingly creative releases of the last while, *Never Stop* is an absolute must-listen.

AARON MARKO



ESO • PREVIEW

Raise Your Hand If You're Celebrating Malanka

**IT'S NEW YEARS EVE!...
FOR UKRAINIANS.
CELEBRATE THE NIGHT
WITH LUCAS WALDIN, GENE
ZWODZESKY AND THE ESO**

TALES FROM UKRAINE

Robbins Lighter Classics Series
Edmonton Symphony Orchestra
Ukrainian Male Chorus of Edmonton and Cheremosh
Ukrainian Dance Company
Francis Winspear Centre
Thursday, Jan. 13, 8:00 p.m.

BY JERRY OZIPKO

For the 100,000 plus ethnic Ukrainians of Edmonton who follow the Julian Calendar in the observance of their national, ethnic, cultural and religious festivals and traditions, it just so happens that Jan. 13 is Ukrainian New Years' Eve.

In honour of the occasion, the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, under the musical direction of its resident conductor Lucas Waldin, is presenting a program of music by composers of Ukrainian national and ethnic origin including Mykhailo Verbytsky (Ukraine's anthem), Pyotr Tschai-kowsky ("Finale" from Symphony No. 2 "Ukrainian" and "Andante" from String Quartet No. 1), Mykola Leontovych ("Carol of the Bells").

Dimitri Tiomkin (a couple of surprises) and Sergei Prokofiev ("Peter and the Wolf"). In addition to a series of traditional folk songs arranged by Roman Soltykewych and a medley of Ukrainian Christmas carols arranged by Peter Wiebe, the concert will include excerpts from "Malanka Suite" by former Edmontonian Willi Zwodzesky. Joining the orchestra in the musical celebration will be the Ukrainian Male Chorus of Edmonton, members of the Cheremosh Ukrainian Dance Company and Alberta Health Minister Gene Zwodzesky, who will serve as the narrator in the Prokofiev.

Waldin is excited about the program, because it is a wonderful outreach to a special ethnic community within the city. The variety of music with orchestra, choir and dancers provides a special challenge to his musical direction. There are some large-scale symphonic works included on the program that Waldin is looking forward to conducting.

"We have a bunch of medleys and also the 'Malanka Suite' with the Ukrainian Men's Choir," says Waldin. "The Tiomkin pieces should be really fun. This will be a great addition to the concert. These guys that came in from Europe, [Erich Wolf-



It's tough to say exactly if all these men are Ukrainian. Regardless, they'll be doing their finest ringing in the Ukrainian New Year. [SUPPLIED]

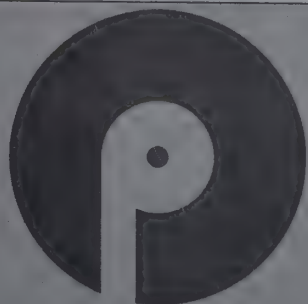
gang] Korngold and [Franz] Waxman, working for Hollywood, you have some really big guns there, and Tiomkin was one of them."

Many may not know that Gene Zwodzesky was a public school music teacher as well as a former conductor and music director of the Shumka dance company and an occasional guest conductor of the ESO. When he was asked to narrate "Peter and the Wolf" a year ago, he eagerly jumped at the opportunity.

"Of course, I'll do anything I can to help promote the season and promote music, in this case music for children," Zwodzesky says. "All of us who have taught music at one point or another used the premise of 'Peter and the Wolf' to introduce young students to the different sounds available in the orchestra. I certainly did. I taught from the standpoint of arousing interest so that learning could start."

He believes that there are fewer

vehicles that provided a better introduction of students to the instruments of the orchestra. He considers it an honour to be named among so many great celebrities who have narrated the work with various orchestras around the world including Peter Ustinov, Sean Connery, Dudley Moore, Lorne Greene and Boris Karloff. There is also the possibility of Zwodzesky conducting the ESO should the Cheremosh dancers use live, instead of prerecorded music.



Permanent Records

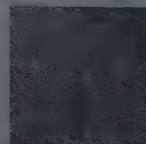
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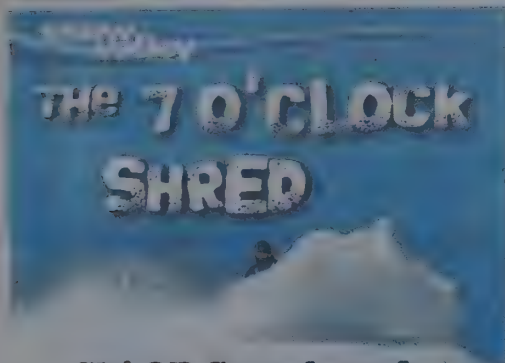
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FRIGID GOODBYES: COLD & WILD

The Usual Suspects



The reinstalled crew of the Empress poses for a staff photo during reopening night. | PHOTO BY FISH GRUKOWSKY



**THE WEATHER'S COLD BUT,
BABY, IT WAS WARM
THE DAY BRENT OLIVER
REUNITED SLOW FRESH OIL
ONE LAST TIME**

WILDLIFE FISH GRUKOWSKY

Do we even know what weekends are around here any more? I kept looking at my wrist calendar to check what day of the week it was and the answer kept coming back, "Who gives a shit?" And what the hell is a wrist calendar, incidentally? My wrist is now demanding.

Let's start with Monday to do the old "my point is." Strange chemistry

understandably, cyclopes. Cyclopii? Whatever, to quote the '90s.

It was an offhand reunion, impromptu bringing all these former players together, university names and former entertainment projectionists like Shawn Ohler staying out way past their usual sleepytime. Field + Stream proved their iron as always and I will keep writing about them and singer Smokey until the lineups are around the block on minus 40° C nights. Quoth Oliver: "So, yeah, I guess this guy Brett is leaving town or something? Moving to Hamilton? Anyway, here's some songs."

I've already said my nicies about Brent, but it's a bummer to lose him, even if there is no cooler place to ditch Edmonton for than Winnipeg. Well, Ardmore's not bad either, but everyone else needs to stop talking about Portland and Montreal or I am making professionally loop-crafted shit sculpture portraits of the

receiving line of long hugs with Derpy, a raving Sean Brewer and Gravy, D-Lux capturing it all like some sort of sinew-legged alternative-lifestyles-weddings videographer. Man-love everywhere, bold and balding.

The Empress reopened, meanwhile, and I'll just quickly mention Jody Sherkarek with Fear + Worry is the first Saturday afternoon performance of the bar's second life. The show starts at 4 p.m. and there are few singers with voices this rustically pretty in the province. And her songs always get me, right in the ol' life hole. You know what I'm talking about, girl.

Finally, I would like to thank Mother Nature for breaking the spine, Battlestar Galactica style, of my backyard car garage tent. Destruction rules! That thing is just fucking DONE and I've been noticing kind of wistfully how the more snow there is, the more it feels like

**I'VE ALREADY SAID MY NICIES ABOUT BRENT, BUT IT'S A BUMMER TO LOSE HIM, EVEN IF
THERE IS NO COOLER PLACE TO DITCH EDMONTON FOR THAN WINNIPEG.**

in the air as Brent Oliver, Lyle Bell and Gravy all occupied the Black Dog same riser again, bad times forgotten, Slow Fresh Oil making sounds I suddenly realized talking to Dwayne Martineau in the can we absolutely never, ever hear any more. This sort of hopeful-yet-menacing distorted bass-guitar blues. You got it: the '90s, smashing jamvana. They played their first song ever written, which made me think of R.E.M. and,

next two of you who leave town.

Brent wrapped the night up playing with Ayla Brook's gang as Mut-tonchops Dan from Boogie Patrol did his sexy walk for the dancefloor ladies, speaking in a normal human voice instead of like some sort of blues-Muppet going to the bathroom for the first time in six days. If you've seen the band you know what I'm talking about.

Up on stage, meanwhile, Brent's

some imagined past outside on the street, scenes from the '20s of newsman Fred Kennedy's 1975 memoir, *Alberta Was My Beat*. It's actually pretty awesome to have this hoary juggernaut roll over us every year, physiotherapists nodding as all the business is drummed up. Still, a point of pride of frontier survival. There'll be time enough for sulking when we're dead.

ROCK • PREVIEW

Greyhound Pilgrimage



Not a florist, but a hard working musician — Jon Cohen (with the rose) thinks Edmonton's so nice, he's coming here twice. | PHOTO SUPPLIED

A SOLO JON COHEN HITS EDMONTON TWICE WITHIN A WEEK AND IS TRAVELLING OLD SCHOOL

JON COHEN

With Brendan Kelly and guests
Haven Social Club (15120 — Stony Plain Road)

Saturday, Jan. 15, 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$10 at the door

With Smokey

ARTery (9535 Jasper Ave.)

Friday, Jan. 21, 8:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$12 at the door

BY TRENT WILKIE

Emblazoned in large font on Jon Cohen's blog page is "No Relation to Leonard." This statement does more than just clarify Cohen's lineage, it is a testament to him setting himself apart from his past and striking out on his own. After being an integral part of The Dears and The Social Register, he has set himself apart from his peers. This is prevalent in *Behold*, his second album, as it is a mixture of new age sensibilities with pop rock creativity. Upon first listen I thought Cohen would have been from the West Coast or at least have strong roots there. Finding out he was a veteran of the Montreal scene was a bit of a surprise, but then again, certain philosophies know no borders.

"I try not to go too much in one direction," explains Cohen. "I'm representing myself. I've never really prescribed too much to anything and that is to my advantage. I've dabbled in everything, from drugs to spirituality, from capitalism to community, to hard core to no core. I'm just trying to sample everything and the same with my music. I'm not limiting myself to anything."

Visiting Edmonton for the second time in his life — twice within a week, no less — Cohen is doing so on his own. Well, he's not doing it alone per se — he's got a strong body of work with him. And with that body of work comes growth from both the artist and music itself.

"A good artist shouldn't just evolve their style from album to album, but also their approach," Cohen says. "After a certain while, you feel your music has reached a certain place where it is content with itself. But, even a great message or idea at the force of saying it over and over again loses its meaning. Your job as a performer is to rekindle that meaning. It is tricky. I'm travelling solo on a kind of pilgrimage. I'm learning a lot along the way."

The use of the word pilgrimage is not an exaggeration for Cohen. Not being able to pry his band away from their lives for a three month winter

tour has forced Cohen out on his own. What he finds and how he finds it will be of his own volition. What may seem extremely scary to some frees Cohen to visit with himself and his life. This is something that very few musicians do anymore.

"It's a funny thing," says Cohen. "My music is a lifestyle and a career and it's neither a high paying career nor the easiest lifestyle. I'm going to find something. I'm looking for something and I'm not sure what that is. I'm doing it unconventionally by visiting 37 cities on a Greyhound bus. It's an experiment so see if it is possible for a musician whose career depends on travel to do it without being incubated in a van. With that said music is a vehicle for me to make connections with all types of people and inevitably bring happiness to me. Whether or not that is going to happen with financial benefits is still to be seen, but it doesn't matter. Anything that brings you closer to people on a wide scale cannot be wrong."

With all this talk of introspection and philosophical relevancy, I threw a simple question to Cohen to gauge his focus. In five words, describe Edmonton. He said:

"They brought us Gretzky, man."

With sage like candour, Cohen has his pulse on the wrist of the nation and he hasn't even hit Winnipeg yet.

Live Music



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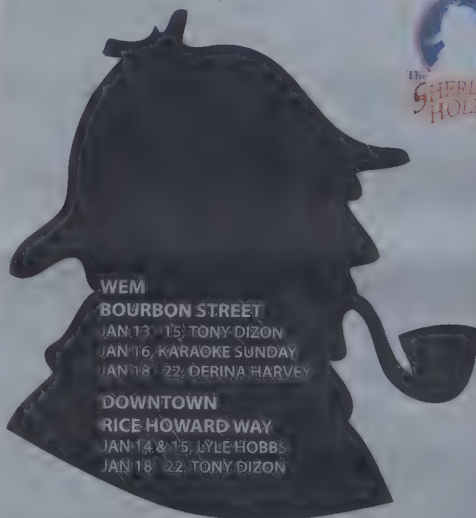
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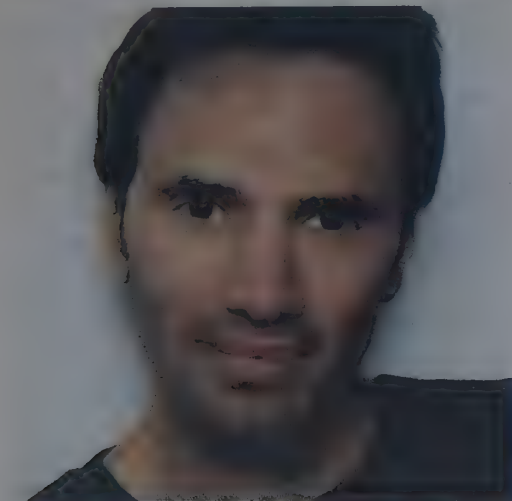
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Tales From Wall Street: Funny Never Sleeps



The King of Laydown, Paul Mecurio, performs throughout the weekend. | PHOTO SUPPLIED

FROM HIGH FINANCE TO TOP COMEDY, PAUL MECURIO OFTEN LIES DOWN ON THE JOB YET NEVER FAILS TO DELIVER THE REAL DEAL.

PAUL MECURIO

Appearing at the Comic Strip (WEM)

Thursday, Jan. 13 – Sunday, Jan. 16, 8 p.m.

(Friday & Saturday at both 8 p.m., 10:30 p.m.)

Tickets: \$15 at the door or at www.comicstrip.ca

BY CURTIS WRIGHT

Paul Mecurio may just be the only comic I can recall that characteristically does his thing while lying down, staring at the ceiling of the comedy club – at least, the only standup who isn't heavily medicated. This is not even shocking – we're not surprised when we see or hear somewhat-odd things from comedians.

A standup's stories are always beyond interesting (we can hope at least) because they observe and comment beyond what most people will. Yet, in life we all experience, more or less, the same things. A comic painfully knows that a good story is not so much in the details, but in the delivery. Paul Mecurio has a good story – in both delivery and detail.

After being accepted into an HBO short film festival and lunching with some very large film directors and executives, Mecurio started thinking that his shorts and his comic bubbles weren't actually all that popped. Great story for an artist, even better if your day-job is contributing to corporate mergers on Wall Street. Turns out working on the Street hadn't killed Mecurio's humorous side, after all – it might have even inspired him.

It wasn't until a chance meeting with Jay Leno that he knew he had really been bitten by the comedy bug, and Mecurio bit back.

"Look, I got all these jokes and I don't know what to do with them, if you want 'em, you can have them," Mecurio recalls mumbling to Leno. "And he called me the next day: 'Hey I read your stuff, I think I can hire you to be one of these long-distance writers – you don't have to leave your job or anything – just send me stuff.' That was kind of how it started."

On Leno's insistence, Mecurio went out to open mic nights in New York to try out his material before sending it in.

It was a perfect fit for Mecurio – the instant audience reaction and was like a drug for the new standup. One night changed his life for good. Something we'll call the 'Bloody Beirut 2 Story'.

On stage during a beloved open mic night, Mecurio would witness a semi-major melee which would leave one man with a horrifically slashed neck throw bloody napkins on Mecurio's 'crisp white Brooks Brothers shirt' – a terrific symbol of

comedy meeting his Wall Street day job. Instead of leaving the stage like most would and probably should, Mecurio continued his set with a few comments about "always wanting to follow a knife fight," won both the slashed, the slashes and the seedy bar audience over with his comedic charisma, and promptly left back to work another late night in high finance.

"And this deal I was doing had blown up, they couldn't get a hold of me and they're screaming at me: 'Where have you been? What are you doing? Why do you have a bloodstain on your shirt? You don't know what you're doing, Mecurio,' and I literally went into anti-heckle mode at that point," says Mecurio. "I turned to the guy and said 'I could have been your father, but the dog beat me over the fence.' That was really the beginning of the end for me. I gotta figure out what I want to do, because if I don't do this, I'm gonna look back and regret it – I left and went full-time with comedy."

Full-time in comedy has worked out tremendously for Mecurio (it pays to tell off your boss).

Having won both an Emmy and a Peabody award for his writing and production work with Comedy Central's *The Daily Show* has allowed Mecurio to headline in North America and Europe, along with catapulting him to new opportunities in the larger comedy world.

Mecurio is currently working on two new television pilots – a sitcom paralleling his rise into comedy and an audience based show, paralleling the thrust of his stand-up routine.

He is also a regular political satirist on CNN, MSNBC and FOX. Yet, it's standup where Mecurio feels most at home, whether it's face-up on a dingy floor or on his feet on the more traditional stage.

"You do get a high [from standup]. It's hard to describe. I was on Wall Street working on these deals and it was great, but when I write something and someone reacts to it and laughs, there's not really a similar work experience," says Mecurio.

"It's like, 'Okay, next deal. Okay, next deal.' It feels like you're on a treadmill bit. With this, I write my own thing and people respond; it's instant."

ARTS • PREVIEW

Students Making Art Stick

AN EVERYDAY MATERIAL BECOMES A ROBUST MEDIUM FOR CREATIVE EXPRESSION IN PUBLIC SPACE

TAPEFEST!

University of Alberta Hospital, Jan. 24-Feb. 7

BY KATHLEEN BELL

The visual arts are fighting a constant battle against their confinement to galleries. They're institutions where the public has to make a special effort to attend; as a result, only people with an intense interest in modern art ever breach that threshold.

But public art can be expensive, controversial, impractical or illegal (ahem, graffiti). So for university fine arts students, still developing into the artists they want to be, it's very nearly impossible to experience having their art on display for the masses.

However, university instructor Agnieszka Matejko, who teaches at both Grant MacEwan and the University of Alberta, has found a beautiful and simple solution to this problem in an everyday material: tape. Specifically, electrical tape.

"I woke up in the middle of the night and I was trying to decide how I could take student's work out of the classroom into the public because I have really strong, strong feelings about artists not just exhibiting in galleries," says Matejko. "I couldn't

figure out if traditional materials [would work] – wood, steel, plaster, those works are heavy and they easily damage. The idea came to mind of painter's tape. It was only when I got up in the morning and I googled it and realized there was this whole swath of artists who have been doing tape art for 20 years or something and I had never heard about it."

She recommends looking up a graffiti artist who goes by the name Buff Diss if you want to see exactly how expressive and elaborate tape art can actually be. Her classes have already been introduced to tape art, having executed several previous projects on the U of A campus. They've brightened up the Rutherford Library atrium with rivers of vibrant blue, or pulses of orange and yellow electrical tape. Now, thanks to a grant for the school, her MacEwan students get to take it a step further, heading to the University of Alberta Hospital to create in a truly shared environment.

"I thought, first of all, the glass walk ways are just magnificent – art works in themselves," says Matejko, "and if we put some colourful tape art on them the whole hospital will look like a giant sculpture. The physical environment was well suited to it but also the physiological environment requires some uplifting, cheerful things to make people smile under difficult circumstances."

Matejko explains it as a kind of social service, but as much as patients and families alike will hopefully enjoy the work, there are important lessons for students to learn on this project.

"It's often the very first time in their entire lives that they've actually worked in public and they have the chance to see people's reactions immediately," says Matejko. "There are passersby who are very honest in their appraisal. Students have been criticized more than I think they are used to. But also they have been praised far more than they are used to."

"Right away, there's kind of an immediate sense, 'Oh my goodness, art isn't just about me doing the work, art is about me communicating with the public.' It helps students to think philosophically about what it means to be an artist, why they do it, who they do it for and how is their work perceived."

And those kinds of questions can't be answered sitting in class or standing in an art gallery.

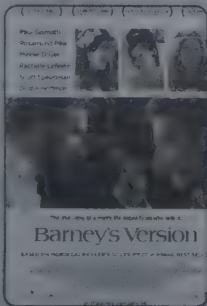
"From the point of view of the artist and students in their prospective careers ... they see that they don't have to be stuck with the high art gallery, doing art for wealthy patrons or doing art for other artists," Matejko concludes.

"They can go out into the streets – as long as it's legal, of course."

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What It Means To Be Human



Scenes from Paolo Holmberg's series 'Eden', which started life online and has recently been published recently in book form. | PHOTO SUPPLIED

PAOLO HOLMBERG'S 'EDEN', NOW PUBLISHED IN BOOK FORM, IS A COMIC STRIP THAT CONFRONTS THE BIG ISSUES

BY KENTON SMITH

The comic strip is following the comic book in maturing as a bona fide artistic and literary medium.

Last year provided the collected *Children of the Atom*, Dave Lapp's poignant, existential and utterly incomparable chronicle of two innocents with nothing but each other in a simultaneously beautiful, threatening and incomprehensible world. It's one of the most unique, esthetically accomplished of all comic strips.

This year we already have *Eden* by Paolo Holmberg. First serialized online and set in a fairy tale world where the magical is everyday, this Argentinean artist has fashioned an equally singular work of delicate beauty and wonder. Like Lapp, Holmberg sees no reason to limit the comic strip to a gag medium, which it's been for most of its history. Instead, he infuses the form with beguiling fancifulness and unexpected depth.

Holmberg remains aware of the conventions of his art: many strips still utilize the classic gag format, with the succession of panels leading to a crafted punchline. Nonetheless, how many gag strips have punchlines as charming, unexpected and imaginative as these?

Let's take a handful of examples featuring what is apparently the king

of the realm; it's never made clear what the odd little creature is, but never mind. In one instance, he's afloat in a small boat, and is informed by a bird that a storm is coming.

"You heard him," the king says after the messenger departs. "We're going home." Then we see the boat rise skyward, resting upon some giant undersea lizard, which stands to full height and starts walking.

On the very next page, the king captures the spirit of an animal he's hunted down; pleased, he proceeds to use it as a bedside lamp.

Or the funniest of all - conveying something of the character's personality - is what the crowned, fur-colored little being does to an impertinent fish.

(By contrast, some strips have fun playing with fairy tale convention - as when the king tries to awaken a sleeping beauty with a kiss ... then sits, utterly befuddled, when it fails to work.)

But Holmberg also uses the gag-strip structure for his own purposes - leading the reader to truisms and epiphanies instead. In one instance, a bird cuts short the sobbing of a forest creature with its single-note translation of a single word: "Hope." This could have been delivered on the level of a New Age greeting card message, but it's unexpected and moving.

Another touching strip has two brothers talking in their darkened bedroom at night. One asks where

their father is; the other replies he's working late, to feed them. "Why are you crying?" the latter then asks. "I'll try to eat less," comes the reply. And in yet another instance, there's Holmberg's affecting explanation of where rain comes from.

There's such a delicacy and romantic sensibility at work. When a bird awakens an odd little creature in its bed, it rises to light a giant lamp on a cliffside: "The first star shows up later each time," the king says, gazing from the ground far, far away. In another strip, a lame man and a mermaid dance together ... underwater.

It's Holmberg's statements on nothing less than the nature of love that reflects his work at its most outstanding. Take the episode where the king and his birdlike female companion have a quarrel, part, fume ... and reconcile tenderly in the final panel.

Most moving of all is when a man joins a woman, who's clearly been waiting for him, in a picturesque valley. Then in the abrupt concluding frame, we see two tombstones, one of which says to the other: "I was waiting for you." It's the outcome of all love stories.

Eden is a work of sometimes almost poetic beauty - pure, heartfelt and true. It's so tender, so affirming, so reassuring. It's a work of genuine art that demands discovery.

More of Pablo Holmberg's work - including additional strips in the *Eden* series - can be found in *Spanish* at kioskerman.com

Literary Gathering

LIBRARY WRITERS' MEET, TWEET AND GREET
EPL Whitemud Crossing, Jan. 15, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

BY ALISTAIR HENNING

On the heels of expanding its hours on Sundays, Edmonton's Public Library is celebrating its 2011 writer in residence, Marty Chan.

On Jan. 15 starting at 2:30, the Whitemud Crossing branch will host a mixer for writers, social media junkies and book lovers.

Chan will unveil his programs for the year, but that's hardly all. Besides Chan, representatives from more than 35 writing organizations will be on hand to talk to people.

Sounds like the sort of event any erstwhile local fiction writer should

be dying to attend wonder what it'd be like to adapt your novel into a stage play or movie script? Have questions about poetry, fiction or nonfiction? Someone there is bound to have the answers.

The event is free, but EPL has set up a book swap.

Not only is there bound to be oodles of fertile conversation on site, but the event is being billed as yet another opportunity for Edmonton to light up the Twittersphere.

In addition to the official representatives, scads of local notables have already committed to showing up.

To check out who's coming, please go to <http://meettweetandgreet.eventbrite.com>.

LATITUDE

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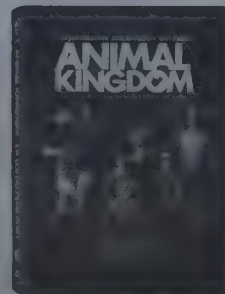
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IS IT TIME FOR SOMETHING'S ENTERTAINING EDMONTON

have something going on? let us know by Friday noon | listings@yeglive.ca

thursday

friday

saturday

sunday

monday

tuesday

wednesday

THE LOVELY, DAINTY AND BUSY SARAH HARMER PLAYS THE STARLITE ROOM JAN. 19 & 20.

JANUARY 13

thug | RICK ROSS
Any Florida native who chooses to tour the Great White North in the depth of winter must have a screw loose. Keep in mind that it is called the 'Blowing Money Fast' Tour... let's just hope the joke's not on us. Edmonton Event Centre, 8 p.m.

JANUARY 14

vroom | EDMONTON MOTORCYCLE SHOW
Why not take this week's ladies night to the extreme and check out some bikes! Lots of prizes, shopping discounts, and plenty of show specials. Don't worry boys - you are still welcome. Edmonton EXPO Centre, 5 p.m.

JANUARY 15

blues | FRONT PORCH ROOTS REVUE 2011
There is no better way to warm up on a cold winter's night than listening to some hot roots music! Grab your friends and enjoy artists such as Ron Rault, David "Crawdad" Cantera and many more! Festival Place, 7:30 p.m.

JANUARY 16

bliss | WEDDING FAIR
It's the most beautiful day of your life. If you or someone you know is getting ready to tie the knot, scope out all the vendors in one convenient spot! Let's try to take the stress out of your impending nuptials. Shaw Conference Centre, 10 a.m.

JANUARY 17

chill | ICE ON WHYTE
Long Johns, check. Togue, check. Mittens, check. It looks like you're ready to tackle one of Edmonton's favourite winter events. This year's festival has a Chinese theme, including a giant ice dragon slide! Old Strathcona Festival Park, 2 p.m.

JANUARY 18

sing | KARAOKE
You've mastered "Tom Sawyer" on Rock Band, but now it's time to take your show to new heights and bask in all the glory a live audience will bring. Do Geddy Lee proud and hold those high notes! Sherlock Holmes Pub, Capilano Mall, 9 p.m.

JANUARY 19

captive | SARAH HARMER
If you scored yourself some tickets to see this folk-rock darling, you are one lucky ducky! If you weren't so timely, you could always brave the cold and buy from scalpers, or better yet, wait for tomorrow night's show. Starlite Room, 7 p.m.

YEG LIVE Music Listings Provided by YEG LIVE

MUSIC

Thursday Jan 13

Live Music

BLUE CHAIR CAFE - Thursday Night Jazz feat. Jim Findlay Trio (Jazz) • 8 PM • \$8 ADULTS, \$5 STUDENTS. LAST SEAT FREE.
CAFE HAVEN - Joel Kampas (Folk, Pop) • 7 PM • NO COVER.
CROWN & ANCHOR PUB - Tiff Hall (Adult Pop, Jazz, Pop) • 8 PM • \$5 AT THE DOOR.
EDMONTON EVENT CENTRE - Rick Ross (Rap) • 8 PM • \$50 AND UP IN ADVANCE. SERVICE CHARGES MAY APPLY.
HAVEN SOCIAL CLUB - The Matinee with The Gastown Royals and The Brandon Baker Trio (Folk, Regional, Rock) • 7:30 PM • \$10 AT THE DOOR.
SHERLOCK HOLMES: CAPILANO - Lyle Hobbs (Adult Contemp.) • 9:30 PM • NO COVER.
SHERLOCK HOLMES: WEM - Tony Dizon (Adult Contemp.) • 9:30 PM • NO COVER.
THE NEST @ NAIT - Indie Night @ The Nest feat. The Matinee (Folk, Regional, Rock) • 4:30 PM • NO COVER.

Live Music

BLUE CHAIR CAFE - CRT Trio feat. Lionel Rault with Don Marlette & Marc Ladouceur (Blues, Folk) • 8 PM • \$10 AT THE DOOR.
CARROT COMMUNITY ARTS COFFEE HOUSE - Michael Reinhardt and friends (Blues, Jazz, World) • 7:30 PM • \$5 AT THE DOOR.
CASINO EDMONTON - Suite 33 (Dance, Pop, Rock) • 8 PM • NO COVER.
CROWN & ANCHOR PUB - The Wheat Pool with Michael James Baird and Jody Rocketty with Sean Burns (Folk) • 8 PM • \$10 AT THE DOOR.
DEVANEY'S IRISH PUB - Stan Gallant (Rock) • 9 PM • NO COVER.
HAVEN SOCIAL CLUB - Album Release feat. The Joe with Mike Month and Mitchmatic and Racoon Suit (Folk) • 7:30 PM • \$8 IN ADVANCE. E-TIX AT YEG.LIVE.CA.
JEFFREY'S CAFE & WINE BAR - June Mann Quartet (Jazz, Pop) • 9 PM • \$10 AT THE DOOR.
JEKYLL & HYDE'S HYDEAWAY - Benefit show & Art Sale feat. Raymonts and friends (New Age, Pop) • 8 PM • \$8 AT THE DOOR.
ON THE ROCKS - Love Junk (Rock) • 9 PM • \$5 AT THE DOOR.
RENDEZVOUS PUB - Memorial to Tony Bush feat. Dis-

sonance with Corpus Malignus and friends (Metal) • 8 PM • \$8 AT THE DOOR.
SHERLOCK HOLMES: CAPILANO - Lyle Hobbs (Adult Contemp.) • 9:30 PM • NO COVER.
SHERLOCK HOLMES: WEM - Tony Dizon (Adult Contemp.) • 9:30 PM • NO COVER.
STARLITE ROOM - Designer Drugs and Guests (Elect.) • 9 PM • NO COVER.
THE MEAD HALL - The Grave Mistakes with Zero Cool and Give 'em Hell Boys (Punk, Rock) • 8 PM • \$12 AT THE DOOR.
WILD EARTH BAKERY - Charlotte & Sarah (Folk) • 8 PM • DONATIONS ACCEPTED.
WUNDERBAR - Freshman Years and friends (Pop, Punk) • 9 PM • \$5 AT THE DOOR.
YELLOWHEAD CASINO - Robin Kelly (Rock) • 8 PM • NO COVER.
BOHEMIA CAFE - Ahead of Time a Winter Concert feat. Boreal Electroacoustic Music Society with Agape RAYGUN - Experiment and friends (Alt.) • 8 PM • \$5 MEMBERS/BOHEMIANS, \$10 NON-MEMBERS.

Dis/Club Nights

OVERTIME SOUTH - DJ Snaw (DJ, Pop) • 10 PM • NO COVER.

Saturday Jan 15

Live Music

BLUE CHAIR CAFE - Christina with Lorna Lampman (Adult Contemp.) • Jazz • 8 PM • \$12 AT THE DOOR.
CASINO EDMONTON - Suite 33 (Dance, Pop, Rock) • 8 PM • NO COVER.
CORNERSTONE PENTECOSTAL FELLOWSHIP - Joel Kampas with Dear (Your Name Here) (Folk, Pop) • 7 PM • NO COVER.
CROWN PUB - Acoustic Open Stage feat. Marshall Lawrence (Blues) • 7 PM • NO COVER.
DEVANEY'S IRISH PUB - Stan Gallant (Rock) • 9 PM • NO COVER.
FESTIVAL PLACE - Front Porch Roots Revue (Blues) • 7:30 PM • \$30 AND UP IN ADVANCE. SERVICE CHARGES MAY APPLY. CHECK WEBSITE FOR TIX.
FILTHY MCNASTY'S - Brandon Baker (Alt., Folk) • 4 PM • NO COVER.
FILTHY MCNASTY'S - Sweat By The Moon with Brandon Baker (Folk, Jazz) • 4 PM • NO COVER.
HORIZON STAGE - A Cappella World Music feat. The Shirelys (Choral, Pop) • 7:30 PM • \$25 ADULTS, \$20 STUDENTS & SENIORS. \$5 EYE-G. SERVICE CHARGES MAY APPLY. CHECK WEBSITE FOR TIX.
JEFFREY'S CAFE & WINE BAR - Billie Zee with Gypsy Live (Jazz, Regional) • 9 PM • \$15 AT THE DOOR.
MARYBETH'S COFFEE HOUSE - Charlotte & Sarah (Folk) • 7:30 PM • DONATIONS ACCEPTED.

ON THE ROCKS - Love Junk (Rock) • 9 PM • \$5 AT THE DOOR.
TRANSALTA ARTS BARN - Bluebird North feat. Karla Anderson with Rob Heath and John Wort Hannam John Mann (Pop, Rock) • 7 PM • \$18 ADVANCE, \$22 AT THE DOOR. CHECK WEBSITE FOR TIX.
TRANSALTA ARTS BARN - Bluebird North feat. Karla Anderson with Rob Heath and John Wort Hannam and John Mann (Pop, Rock) • 8 PM • \$18 IN ADVANCE, \$22 AT THE DOOR. CHECK WEBSITE FOR TIX.
WUNDERBAR - Reverend Charlie Scream (Folk) • 9 PM • NO COVER.
YELLOWHEAD CASINO - Robin Kelly (Rock) • 8 PM • NO COVER.
DJs/Club Nights
OVERTIME SOUTH - DJ Snaw (DJ, Pop) • 10 PM • NO COVER.
PAWN SHOP - LA Ricks (DJ, Elect.) • 9 PM • \$15 IN ADVANCE. E-TIX AT YEG.LIVE.CA.
THE COMMON - Golden Era feat. Sonny Grimez with Twist Institute (DJ) • 9 PM • \$5 AT THE DOOR.

Sunday Jan 16

Live Music

BLUE CHAIR CAFE - Brunch feat. Jim Findlay Trio (Jazz) • 10 AM • DONATIONS ACCEPTED.
BLUE PEAR RESTAURANT - Mike Lent (Jazz) • 6 PM • INCLUDED WITH DINNER.
HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH - Scena Chamber Singers with Scena Early Music Ensemble John Brough, Conductor (Choral) • 7 PM • \$20 ADULTS, \$15 STUDENTS & SENIORS. AT THE DOOR.
ON THE ROCKS - Seven Strings Sundays Presents Prairie Nights with Tim Limbo and Tiff Hall (Folk) • 9 PM • \$5 AT THE DOOR.
ROBERTSON WESLEY UNITED CHURCH - Brilliant Baroque feat. Alberta Baroque Ensemble (Classical) • 3 PM • \$20 AND UP IN ADVANCE. SERVICE CHARGES MAY APPLY. CHECK WEBSITE FOR TIX.

Monday Jan 17

Live Music

BLUES ON WHYTE - Morgan Davis (Blues) • 9 PM • NO COVER.
PLEASANTVIEW CL. HALL - Jam Session feat. Wild Rose Old Time Fiddlers Assoc. (World) • 7 PM • \$3 RECOMMENDED DONATION.

Tuesday Jan 18

Live Music

BLUES ON WHYTE - Morgan Davis (Blues) • 9 PM • NO COVER.
SHERLOCK HOLMES: CAPILANO - Karaoke (Karaoke) • 9 PM • NO COVER.

Wednesday Jan 19

Live Music

BLUES ON WHYTE - Morgan Davis (Blues) • 9 PM • NO COVER.
GOOD EARTH COFFEEHOUSE DOWNTOWN - Breezy Brian Gregg (Folk) • 12 PM • NO COVER.
OVERTIME SOUTH - Karaoke (Karaoke) • 9:30 PM • NO COVER.
STARLITE ROOM - The Union and 95.7 The Sound present Sarah Harmer (Folk, Pop, Rock) • 7 PM • SOLD OUT!
WUNDERBAR - National Treasure with Joe Nolan (Folk, R&B, Rock) • 9 PM • \$5 AT THE DOOR.

OPEN STAGES

THURSDAY JAN 13
CARROT COMMUNITY ARTS COFFEE HOUSE - Zoomers Open Mic • 7 PM • NO COVER.
JEKYLL & HYDE'S HYDEAWAY - Hydeaway All Ages Open Stage Jam • 7 PM • NO COVER.
MARYBETH'S COFFEE HOUSE - Open Mic @ Marybeth's hosted by Bill Bonnah • 7:30 PM • NO COVER.
NAKED ON JASPER - Open Mic @ Naked On Jasper • 8 PM • NO COVER.
FRIDAY JAN 14
THE LIZARD LOUNGE - Open Mic @ Lizard Lounge • 8:30 PM • NO COVER.
SATURDAY JAN 15
CARROT COMMUNITY ARTS COFFEE HOUSE - Open Mic @ The Carrot • 7 PM • NO COVER.
MORANGO'S - Open Mic @ Morango's Tek Cafe • 7 PM • NO COVER.
SUNDAY JAN 16
DEVANEY'S IRISH PUB - Celtic Jam Night Hosted by Neri Lynn Zwicker • 5:30 PM • NO COVER.
MONDAY JAN 17
DEVANEY'S IRISH PUB - Singer-Songwriter Night @ Devaney's Hosted by Dale Ladouceur • 8 PM • NO COVER.
ROUGE LOUNGE - Open Mic @ Rouge Lounge • 9 PM • NO COVER.
TUESDAY JAN 18
LB'S PUB - Open Mic @ LB's • 9 PM • NO COVER.
SECOND CUP - SUMMERWOOD - Open Mic @ Second Cup Summerwood • 7:30 PM • NO COVER.
THE DRUID - Open Mic @ The Druid • 8 PM • NO COVER.
WEDNESDAY JAN 19
CROWN PUB - Dan Jam with Miguel & Friends • 8 PM • NO COVER.
DEVANEY'S IRISH PUB - Open Mic @ Devaney's hosted by Duffy Robinson • 8 PM • NO COVER.
ELEPHANT & CASTLE WHYTE AVE - Open Mic @ Elephant and Castle • 8:30 PM • NO COVER.
EXPRESSOZ CAFE - Expresso Cafe Open Stage • 7 PM • ADMISSION BY DONATION.

ARTS & CULTURE

Exhibits

ABSTRACT ART SHOW (TAYA ROSS) SCOTIA PLACE 10060 JASPER AVE - in Tower Two DAILY TIL FEB 28
ALL ABOUT STAR (SHEILA SPENCE) ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA 2 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQ. - Shot on locations including the Canadian Rockies International Rodeo in Strathmore and the Wood Mountain Stampede in southern Saskatchewan. Spence's images investigate the complexities of community and identity as they reflect the mythology behind rodeo culture. These portraits present traditional ideas about this community while provoking questions about the subjects and their individual roles within it. DAILY TIL JAN 30
CURRENTLY SHOWING EXPRESSIONZ CAFE 9936 70 AV HW - 12 artists of diverse media and talent are featured. DAILY TIL JAN 18 www.expressonzcafe.com
CYNTHIA FUHRER HARDCOURT HOUSE GALLERY 380 FRL 10215 112 ST - I Make My Own Friends. Local artist exhibits a new body of work of people who do not exist. MON-FRI 10-5. SAT 12-4 TIL FEB 12 www.harcourthouse.ab.ca
DRESS UP GAMES VISUAL ARTS ALBERTA GALLERY 10215 112 ST - Roxanne Taylor's most recent painted series addresses ideas about contemporary costuming and everyday social performance in an effort to define an attitude and character that is distinctly Canadian. WED-FRI 10-4. SAT 12-4 TIL FEB 18. visualartsalberta.com
EXHIBITION CENTRE D'ARTS VISUELS 1111 ALBERTA 9103-95 AVE - Featuring some of our 160 members, a presentation of different mediums and techniques. DAILY TIL FEB 23 Info: 780 461-3427 www.savacava.com
GARY JAMES JOYNE & BRANDON DALMER LATITUDE 53 10248 106 ST - Join us for Joyne's interactive audio art & Dalmers' sweet dioramas. TUE-FRI 10-6. SAT 12-5 TIL FEB 22. www.latitude53.org
HENRI MATISSE: A CELEBRATION OF LIGHT AND LINE ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA 2 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQ. - This comprehensive exhibition of French artist Henri Matisse showcases over 170 works that span 50 years of his career. The role that printmaking played in the development of the artist's career is emphasized, and features a selection of paintings, sculpture and drawings from the Baltimore Museum of Art's Cone Collection. Many of the later works displayed are being shown for the first time in this exhibition. DAILY TIL FEB 13
IN SEARCH OF LOST TIME VISUAL ARTS ALBERTA GALLERY 10215 112 ST - Debra Bachman Smith explores memory and the illusion of permanence through mixed media portraits. WED-FRI 10-4. SAT 12-4 TIL FEB 18 visualartsalberta.com
LAURA ST. PIERRE: URBAN VERNACULAR ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA 2 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQ. - Using our society's most plentiful resource - trash - as a building material, St. Pierre transforms found urban spaces into

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WWW.THEBLUEPEAR.COM

BLUES ON WHYTE • 10239 WHYTE AVE • 780-439-5058
WWW.BLUESONWHYTE.CA

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WWW.CAFEHAVEN.CA

CARROT COMMUNITY ARTS CAFEHOUSE • 9351 118 AV NW • 780-477-1580 ARTS HAVEN DRUG THE CARROT
CASINO EDMONTON • 7055 ARTHUR RD • 780-463-9467
WWW.CASINODABS.COM

CORNERSTONE PENTECOSTAL FELLOWSHIP • #107, 22 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL AVE, ST. ALBERT • 780-459-0551
CROWN & ANCHOR PUB • 15277 CASTLE DOWNS RD NW • 780-477-7696

CROWN PUB • 10709 109 ST NW • 780-428-5618
WWW.CROWNPUZZA.COM

DEVANEY'S IRISH PUB • 9013 88 AV NW • 780-465-4834
WWW.EDMONTONPUBS.COM

EDMONTON EVENT CENTRE • #2556 WEST EDMONTON MALL • 780-489-7469 WWW.EDMONTONEVENTCENTRE.CA

ELPHANT & CASTLE WHITE AVE • 10314 WHYTE AVE • 780-436-4565 WWW.ELPHANTCASTLE.COM

EXPRESSION CAFE • 9938 20 AV NW • 780-437-3667
WWW.EXPRESSIONCAFE.COM

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WWW.FILTHYMCNASTYS.TS

GOOD EARTH COFFEEHOUSE DOWNTOWN • 9942 108 ST • 780-761-0440 WWW.GOOD-EARTH.CA

HAVEN SOCIAL CLUB • 1520A STONY PLAIN RD • 780-756-6010 WWW.THEHAVENSOCIALCLUB.COM

HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH • 10037 84 AV NW • 780-433-5530 WWW.HOLYTRINITY.AB.CA

HORIZON STAGE • 315 JESPERSEN AVE, SPRUCE GROVE • 780-952-8995 WWW.HORIZONSTAGE.COM

JEFFREY'S CAFE & WINE BAR • 9640 142 ST • 780-457-8890
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JEKYLL & HYDE'S HYDEAWAY • 10209 100 AVENUE • 780-426-5381 WWW.THEHYDEAWAY.ORG

LEB'S PUB • 23 AKINS DR, ST. ALBERT • 780-460-9100

temporary installation sites. St. Pierre captures these DIY dwellings and environments in large scale photographs, which reflect our taste for the fashionable and disposable, residing somewhere between the resplendence and absurdity of consumer culture. **DAILY TIL FEB 13**

LIFE-LINE (SHERI CHABA) HARCOURT HOUSE GALLERY • 3RD FLR, 1025 112 ST • A sculptural installation sparked by first hand accounts of the impact of industry in northern Alberta. **MON-FRI 10-5, SAT 12-4 TIL FEB 16** **DAILY TIL MAR 4** 4180 www.harcourthouse.ab.ca

LINES OF FLIGHT RUTHERFORD SOUTH LIBRARY RUTHERFORD SOUTH-101 • Join U of A and Design students as they creatively investigate liberating escapes from standard visual art forms. **DAILY FROM JAN 17 TO FEB 11**

MOUNTAINS, PRAIRIES AND SKIES JEFF ALLEN ART GALLERY 10831 UNIVERSITY AVE • Beautiful landscape paintings by Don Sharpe. **DAILY TIL JAN 26**

NEW YEAR EXHIBITION WEST END GALLERY 1208 JASPER AV • Featuring paintings from Annabelle Margulies, Reynald Leclerc, Guy Roy & Carole Amstutz. Glass sculpture from Tammy Hudgeon & David Thail. **DAILY TIL FEB 18** www.westendgallery1td.com

PATTERNS IN GLASS MUSEE HERITAGE MUSEUM'S ST. ANNE STREET, ST. ALBERT • Metis Design in Beads. The design and creation of beadwork by Metis women. **DAILY TIL JUN 30** www.artsh heritage.ca

PHOTO-ABSTRACTS MC MULLEN GALLERY 8440 112 ST • **DAILY TIL MAR 13** www.friendssofah.org

PHRASES TO PAINT BY (WILLIAM G. PRETTIE) MISERICORDIA HOSPITAL 16940 87 AVE • Painting series originally inspired by the events of 9/11, incorporates select writings of some recent thinkers on the human condition. **DAILY TIL FEB 25** www.williamgprettie.com

REFRAMING A NATION ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA 2 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQ • Reframing a Nation considers how works by Canadian artists such as Frederick Varner, Cornelius Krieghoff, Tom Thomson, The Group of Seven, Emily Carr and David Milne have been viewed in the past, and searches for new ways to talk about them in the present. **DAILY TIL JAN 20**

SHADOW AND LIGHT (IGOR WODONUK) CAFE HAVEN 9 SLOUX RD, SHERWOOD PARK • Local landscape artist solo exhibition and sale. **DAILY TIL JAN 15**

SHOW AND SALE (EDMONTON ART CLUB) MISERICORDIA HOSPITAL 16940 87 AVE • **DAILY TIL JAN 29**

STIMULATE YOUR MIND WITH FINE ART LANDO GALLERY 11130 105 AVE • Works by gallery artists. **MON-FRI 10-5:30, SAT 10-4 30 TIL FEB 19** Info: 780-590-1161 www.landogallery.com

STREETS & AVENUES (JUSTINA SMITH) NAESS GALLERY 10032 81 AVE • An exhibition of new works, subjects vary drastically from old cars to passers-by on the street. **DAILY TIL JAN 31**

SUN REALM GALLERY AT MILNER 7 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQ • Along with the original graphic on paper

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PAWN SHOP • 10551 WHYTE AVE NW • 780-432-5058
WWW.PAWNSHOPPLIVE.CA

PLEASANTVIEW CL HALL • 10860 57 AVE • 780-434-7870
WWW.PLEASANTVIEWCOMMUNITYLEAGUE.CA

RENDEZVOUS PUB • 10108 149 ST • 780-444-1822

ROBERTSON WESLEY UNITED CHURCH • 10209 - 123 ST • 780-482-1527 WWW.RWUC.ORG

ROUGE LOUNGE • 10111 117 ST • 780-482-5152
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SHERLOCK HOLMES: WEM • 1650-8882 107 ST • 780-444-1752 WWW.EDMONTONPUBS.COM

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THE COMMON • 10874 JASPER AVE • 780-457-7333
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THE DRUID • 11606 JASPER AVE • 780-454-9978
WWW.THEDRUIDEDMONTON.COM

THE LIZARD LOUNGE • 13160 118 AVE • 780-451-9180

THE MEAD HALL • 10940 165A ST NW • 780-819-6660
WWW.MYSPACE.COM/THEMEADHALL

THE NEST @ NAIT • 11767 106 STREET NW • (780) 477-8560
WWW.NAITS.CA/NEST.ASP

TRANSALTA ARTS BARN • 10330 84 AV NW • 780-448-9000
WWW.FRINTHEATRE.CA/TAB/INDEX.PHP

WILD EARTH BAKERY • 8902 99 ST • 780-425-8423
WWW.WILDEARTHBAKERY.COM

WUNDERBAR • 802 101 ST NW • 780-436-2786

YELLOWHEAD CASINO • 12464 - 151 ST • 780-424-9467
WWW.CASINODABS.COM

BOHEMIA CAFE • 10575 114 ST • 780-669-5236 ARTIMAZKA.CA

the Sunflower series has developed into larger than life colour paintings by Pat Wagensveld. **DAILY TIL JAN 31** www.spil.ca

THE SYMBOLIST MUSE: A COLLECTION OF PRINTS FROM THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF CANADA ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA 2 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQ • Featuring works of 26 important European artists, including Paul Gauguin, Wassily Kandinsky, Edward Munch, Pablo Picasso and Odilon Redon. **DAILY TIL MAR 13** Info: 780-422-6223 www.yourag.ca

THE WOODS ARE LOVELY, DARK AND DEEP PROFILES-ART GALLERY OF ST. ALBERT 19 PERRON ST, ST. ALBERT • The exhibition features artwork by Susan Casault, Kathryn Manny, Judith Martin, Arlene Wasylchuk and Lesley Roy. **DAILY TIL APR 2** www.artsh heritage.ca

VESSELS PROFILES-ART GALLERY OF ST. ALBERT 19 PERRON ST, ST. ALBERT • What is a vessel? Explore this concept through ceramics, paintings, and installation art. Through the perspectives of six artists, this exhibition investigates & challenges the idea of containment. **DAILY**

TIL JAN 29
WATERPLAY (ALLIED ARTS COUNCIL OF SPRUCE GROVE) MELCOR CULTURAL CENTRE 35 FIFTH AVE, SPRUCE GROVE • Spruce Grove Art Gallery exhibit by Huong Nguyen. **MON-THU 10-8, FRI/SAT 10-5 TIL JAN 29** www.alliedarts.council.com

WINTER SCAPES NAESS GALLERY 10032 81 AVE • The Paint Spot has invited local artists to compete in this Virtual Space group exhibition. **DAILY** **THU JAN 30** www.paintspot.ca

Theatre

AN EVENING WITH CHOPIN (COTTE BALLET) TIMMS CENTRE • Features works of international choreographer, Waldemar Bartkowski and guest company, The Youth Ballet of Saskatchewan. **SAT JAN 15 7:30PM, SUN JAN 16 2:00PM** Info: 780-420-1757 www.cottetballet.com

DIE-NASTY VARSCONA THEATRE 10329 83 AVE • The Canadian Comedy Award-winning live improvised soap opera returns for its 20th season of romance, passion, betrayal, love, lust and laughs! **MONDAYS TIL MAY 30, AT 7:30PM**

ENGLISH PANTOMIME (ST GEORGE OF ENGLAND SOCIETY) WOODENROCK CL HALL 1915 15 AVE • An evening of family entertainment. **JAN 6, 7, 8, 14, 15, AT 7:30PM, JAN 9 AT 2:00PM** Info: 780-457-4212

MOZART ZEPHIRE COMPLETE MYSTERY (FRINGE THEATRE ADVENTURES) TRANSLATA ARTS BARN 10330 84 AV NW • **DAILY FROM JAN 20 TO JAN 30, AT 8:00 PM** Info: 780-409-1910 www.fringetheatre.ca

THE COMPLETE SPIRAL DIVE TRILOGY (KENNETH BROWN) LA CITE FRANCOPHONE 8627 RUE MARIE-ANNE-GEORGIEUX • Award-winning episodes 1, 2 & 3 will play together for the first time in one theatrical run. **CONTACT WORKSHOP WEST FOR DATE & TIME DETAILS** Info: 780-477-5955 www.workshopwest.org

Comedy

BROWN ON BOURBON THE COMIC STRIP BOURBON STREET WEM • The Bear's Paul Brown hosts this Local Talent Night. **TUESDAYS AT 8:00 PM**

COMEDIAN (PAUL MEURIOU) THE COMIC STRIP BOURBON STREET WEM • **JAN 12-16 WED/THU/SUN 8PM, FRI/SAT 8 & 10:30 PM** www.thecomicsstrip.ca

COMEDY NIGHT CELLS 10338 109 ST • **TUESDAYS AT 8:30 PM**

COMEDY NIGHT SUNDAYS (LARS CALLIGOU) THE DRUID 11606 JASPER AVE • Hosted open stage for anyone wanting to try stand up comedy. **SUNDAYS AT 8:00 PM**

HIT OR MISS MONDAYS THE COMIC STRIP BOURBON STREET WEM • **MONDAYS AT 8:00 PM** Info: 780-483-5999 www.thecomicsstrip.ca

THE HYDEAWAY COMEDY NIGHT JEKYLL & HYDE'S HYDEAWAY 10209 100 AVENUE • **TUESDAYS AT 9:00 PM**

Improv

CHIMPPOV VARSCONA THEATRE 10329 83 AVE • **SATURDAYS, 11 PM** (NO SHOWS ON THE LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH) www.rapidfiretheatre.com

THEATRESPOTS (RAPID FIRE THEATRE) VARSCONA THEATRE 10329 83 AVE • Teams of improvisers battle it out squared circle. **IMP** political figure is safe, no pre-conception left unprodded. **FRIDAYS AT 11:00 PM**

Readings & Lectures

ARTIST TALK (SHERI CHABA) MACEWAN CENTRE FOR THE ARTS 10445 156 ST • Harcourt House Artist Run Centre presents the new work of the local artist in Room 203. **FRI JAN 14, 1:00 PM** www.shenchabada.com

ARTIST TALK (BRANDON A. DALMER) LATITUDE 53 10248 106 ST • The artist's quirky dioramas & drawings are cur-

rently on display in the Projex Room. **SAT JAN 15, 2:00 PM** www.latitude53.org

CENTRE FOR READING: FROM BOOKS TO FILM STANLEY A. MILNER LIBRARY 7 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQ • Info: 406-7000 • **FRIDAYS AT 5:00 PM**

MEET, TWEET AND GREET (MARTY CHAN) WHITEHORN CROSSING LIBRARY 4711 106 ST • EPL celebrates their 2011 writer in residence with a mixer for writers, social media junkies and book-lovers. **SAT JAN 15, 2:30 PM** meettweetandgreet.eventbrite.com

MONTHLY MEETING & TELLAROUND (T.A.L.E.S.) STANLEY A. MILNER LIBRARY 7 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQ • Tall Tales with Host Stephanie Bengier, followed by an open story circle. Guests welcome! **FRI JAN 14, 7:00 PM** www.treelnet.edmonton.ab.ca

POETRY READINGS ROUGE LOUNGE 10111 117 ST • With local poets. Info: 902-5900 • **TUESDAYS AT 8:00 PM**

POETRY READINGS LEVA CAFE BAR 1053 86 AVE • Info: 479-5382 • **EVERY THIRD SUNDAY**

POETRY READINGS (WRITERS GUILD OF ALBERTA) GREEN WOODS BOOKSHOPPE 7925 104 ST • **SUN JAN 16, 2:00 PM** Info: 780-422-8774 www.standpoetstools.com

STORY SLAM HAVEN SOCIAL CLUB 1520A STONY PLAIN RD • Tell your five-minute original story on stage, to win audience donations! Followed by music jam. **THIRD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7:30 PM**

STROLL OF POETS: POETS HAVEN READING SERIES UPPER CRUST CAFE 10909 93 AVE • **MONDAYS TIL MAR 21 AT 2:00 PM** Info: 780-423-8774

T.A.L.E.S. ROSIE'S BAR AND KITCHEN 10475 80 AVE • Story cafe series. Info: 932-4409 • **FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH**

WRITER'S CORNER STANLEY A. MILNER LIBRARY 7 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQ • The library hosts a different author each month. **LAST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7:30 PM**

Screen

CANADIANA ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA 2 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQ • Visions of the Country by Independent Filmmakers in the Lectorio Theatre. **FRI JAN 14, 7:00 PM** www.youag.ca

IMAX FILMS TELUS WORLD OF SCIENCE 11211 142 ST • The Light Before Christmas. Also playing: The Wildest Dream: Conquest of Everest. Homes: The Story of Equus and Dinosaurs Alive! **DAILY TIL FEB 2** www.edmontonscience.com

Events

ARTIST RECEPTION (JUSTINA SMITH) NAESS GALLERY 10032 81 AVE • Streets & Avenues. **TIL JAN 20, 5:00 PM** www.paintspot.ca

BALLROOM DANCING FOR ALL GERMAN CANADIAN CULTURAL CENTRE 8310 ROYER RD • Cha-cha, waltz, two-step, tango, jive - name it, we will play it! Music by DJ Tommy from Strictly Dance. **FRI JAN 14, 8:00 PM** Info: 780-466-4000 www.gcca.ca

COMMUNITY ART NIGHT NINA HAGGERTY CENTRE 9704 111 AVE • Adult art session. **TUESDAYS AT 6:30 PM** Info: 780-474-7611

EDMONTON MOTORCYCLE SHOW EDMONTON EXPO CENTRE 7315 118 AVE • Friday night is SHE RIDES Nine Ladies night - Ladies get in to 16 price and can enter to win a brand new Kawasaki Ninja 250. Motor Madness includes MX Freestyle and ATV Freestyle all weekend long and Kids can learn to ride at the show. **FRI 12-6 PM, SAT 10 AM-6 PM, SUN 10 AM-5 PM** www.edmontonmotorcycleshow.ca

FAMILY ART NIGHT NINA HAGGERTY CENTRE 9704 111 AVE • **THURSDAYS AT 6:30 PM** Info: 780-474-7611

FARMER'S MARKET ALBERTA AVENUE CL HALL 9210 118 AVE • **THURSDAYS AT 2:00 PM**

OPEN HOUSE EDMONTON BRIDGE CENTRE 11810 KINGSWAY AVE • **SAT JAN 15, 12:00 PM** Info: 780-451-5595 www.edmontonbridge.ca

OPENING RECEPTION (ALLIED ARTS COUNCIL OF SPRUCE GROVE) MELCOR CULTURAL CENTRE 35 FIFTH AVE, SPRUCE GROVE • WATERPLAY exhibit by Spruce Grove Art Gallery with artist Huong Nguyen on attendance. **SAT JAN 15, 1:00 PM** www.alliedarts.council.com

OPENING RECEPTION LATITUDE 53 10248 106 ST • Gary James Jones & Brandon A. Dalmer. **FRI JAN 14, 7:00 PM** www.latitude53.org

OPENING RECEPTION (TAYA ROSS) SCOTIA PLACE 10660 JASPER AVE • Abstract Art Show in Tower Two. **FRI JAN 14, 6:00 PM**

OPENING RECEPTION LANDO GALLERY 11130 105 AVE • Stimulate Your Mind With Fine Art. Works by gallery artists. **SAT JAN 15, 1:00 PM** Info: 780-390-1161 www.landogallery.com

SERVUS COMMUNITY ACCESS NIGHT ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA 2 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQ • Free access to the Art Gallery of Alberta. **LAST THU. OF EVERY MONTH 6 PM**

Meetings

BABES IN ARMS AND LAPS CARROT COMMUNITY ARTS • OFFEE HOUSE 9351 118 AV NW • Moms and little ones meet. **FRIDAYS AT 10:00 AM**

BEYOND THE SECRET (REACHING OUT FELLOWSHIP) ST JOACHIM CATHOLIC CHURCH 10475 80 AVE • Beyond the Secret (Law of Attraction) by Bob Proctor on DVD projected on large screen. **WED JAN 19, 7:30 PM**

FOOD ADDICTS ST. LUNE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH 8424 118 AVE • A free recovery program will address suffering from eating disorders, overeating, and food addiction. **THU 7 PM** Info: 780-465-2019-6019

MAMAMURDA STUDY PROGRAM KARMA TASHI LING 10502 70 AVE • **TUESDAYS AT 7:00 PM**

MILL WOODS WALKING GROUP (COMMUNITY WALKING PROJECT) MILL WOODS TOWN CENTRE 2331 66 ST • **TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS, TIL MAR 31, AT 9:00 AM**

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS MISERICORDIA HOSPITAL 16940 87 AVE • **SATURDAYS AT 11:00 AM** Info: 780-423-2546

PLEASANTVIEW CL WALK (COMMUNITY WALKING PROJECT) PLEASANTVIEW CL HALL 10860 57 AVE • Pleasantview Walking Group. Meet in the community hall. **TUESDAYS TIL MAR 29, AT 5:45 PM**

SEBA LUNCHEON AND AGM (SOUTH EDMONTON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION) DELTA EDMONTON SOUTH 4404 GATEWAY BOULEVARD • **TUE JAN 18, 11:30 AM** Info: 780-438-4772 www.sebaonline.ca

SUIT UP AND SHOW UP: AA BIG BOOK STUDY PRIDE CENTRE 9540 111 AVE • Discussion and support group for those struggling with an alcohol addiction or seeking support in staying sober. **SATURDAYS AT 12:00 PM**

TWIN BROOKS WALK (COMMUNITY WALKING PROJECT) TWIN BROOKS PARK 113 ST & 11 AVE • **MONDAYS TIL MAR 28, AT 6:30 PM**

WALKING WITH GRIEF FOR PARENTS EDMONTON BEREAVEMENT CENTRE 202, 10339 124 ST • **WEDNESDAYS TIL FEB 28, AT 6:45 PM** Info: 780-454-1194, ext. 224

Learning

ART VENTURES PROFILES-ART GALLERY OF ST. ALBERT 19 PERRON ST, ST. ALBERT • **JAN 15, 1-4 PM** Info: 780-460-4310 www.artsh heritage.ca

ARTIST AT HEART PROFILES-ART GALLERY OF ST. ALBERT 19 PERRON ST, ST. ALBERT • **JAN 15, 10AM-NOON** Info: 780-460-4310 www.artsh heritage.ca

LISTINGS cont'd on p. 27

**The Normals**

January 13, 2011

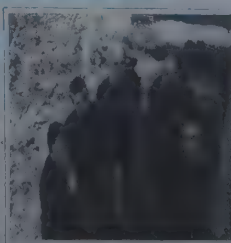
The Normals are entertaining stages all over Edmonton and Alberta. Dressing wacky, acting weird and being delightful is their forte. Canada's Premiere 80's Tribute Band has accomplished time travel in Edmonton, Alberta since 2009.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON JAN 3-6PM
LIVE MUSIC 6 DAYS A WEEK

Hot Cottage

January 15, 2011

Hot Cottage, based out of Edmonton, Alberta Canada has been in existence since 1970. It is an extremely versatile group that is at home playing everything from delta style to big band blues; from swing to slow blues and from blues samba to barn-burning boogie. The group plays both re-arranged and self-written pieces, with something for everyone.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

JAN 17 - Little Charlie Trouble
JAN 19 - Gordie Matthews
JAN 20 - Jimmy & The Sleepers
JAN 21-22 - Jack Sample
JAN 24 - Little Charlie Trouble
JAN 26 - Gordie Matthews
JAN 27 - Fender Benders

MOVIE GUIDE • WHAT'S PLAYING IN THEATRES

10/12

Can a 10-year-old be a danger to society? At the end of this one we'll know if life can be over before reaching the teen years.

RABBIT HOLE

Lives are torn apart and brought together after a four-year-old dies in an accident. Fortunately, humour has been thrown in to make this dark subject a little lighter.

THE DILEMMA

After confronting his best friend's

wife for cheating, Vince Vaughn's character faces one simple question, to tell or not to tell.

ANOTHER YEAR

One perfectly happy married couple means a whole bunch of unhappy people surrounding them. Watch and see if their happiness makes unhappy people feel better or worse.

YAMLA PAGLA DEEWANA

Two con-men welcome a third member into their family to exploit his abilities, and end up having to

run after his lovely lady when her brothers drag her back to Punjab. I predict that this will most likely end with... a wedding!

BLUE VALENTINE

A rocky relationship only seems to be further doomed by a final attempt at reconciliation. What should we take away from this? Don't get married after a few weeks when you find out your lover is pregnant with someone else's child.

COUNTRY STRONG

A fallen country music star meets

a new country hopeful and tries to rise back to the top. A sing-off seems more likely than a cat fight, but if you like country music, it might be worth a watch.

SEASON OF THE WITCH

Cage's character is after a witch that may just be responsible for the Black Plague. They may stop the witch's curse, but is Cage cursed to remain in silly supernatural films?

SOMEWHERE

A mother's breakdown means father-daughter bonding in Hollywood. If the mansion on the poster

is any indication of this star's wealth, some time with dad might be fun for the 11-year old.

TRUE GRIT

As in most westerns, vengeance must be had. But this time, a sweet little girl will avenge her father with the help of some serious cowboys.

TRON: LEGACY

The long awaited sci-fi extravaganza is here! Lets hope that this sequel is as good today as the original was in 1982.

SHOWTIMES January 14 – January 20, 2010

METRO
9828-101A AVE ZEDLER HILL, CITADEL THEATRE
780-425-2012

DOC SOUP: SONS OF PERDITION STC
Director: Tyler Measom & Jennifer Merten USA 2010, 95 min, Dig/Beta Jan 12 @ 7pm

TURKEY SHOOT: XANADU STC
Director: Robert Greenwald USA 1980, 93 min, Video Jan 12 @ 7pm

THE CIRCUS, WITH PAY DAY STC
Jan 14 @ 7pm Jan 16 @ 9pm Jan 16 @ 4pm Jan 18 @ 7pm

MODERN TIMES STC
Director: Charles Chaplin

THE KID W/ THE IDEAL CLASS STC
Director: Charles Chaplin Jan 15 & 17 @ 7pm Jan 16 @ 2pm

THE GOLD RUSH W/ A DAYS PLEASURE STC
Director: Charles Chaplin USA Jan 15 & 17 @ 9pm

A WOMAN OF PARIS W/ SUNSHINE STC
Director: Charles Chaplin Jan 16 & 17 Jan 18 @ 9pm

GARNEAU
812-109 STREET 780-433-0728

BLACK SWAN 14A
Nightly @ 6:30 & 9:00pm Sat & Sunday matinees @ 2:00pm sexual content, disturbing content, not recommended for children

PRINCESS
10337 - 81 AVE 780-433-0728

RABBIT HOLE PG
Nightly 7:10 & 9:10pm Sat & Sunday matinees @ 2:00pm mature subject matter

127 HOURS 14A
Nightly 7:00 & 9:00pm Sat & Sunday matinees @ 2:30pm gory scenes, disturbing content

LEUDUC
4702-52 STREET 780-985-2728

-SEASON OF THE WITCH 14A
9:30min MATINEE - Sat., Sun. 1:00 pm and 3:25 pm NIGHTLY - 7:00 pm and 9:25 pm

-TRUE GRIT 14A
Halle Matinee - Sat., Sun. - 1:00 pm and 3:35 pm NIGHTLY - 7:00 pm and 9:25 pm

-BLACK SWAN 14A
Sexual Content, Disturbing Content, Not Recommended for Children MATINEE - Sat., Sun. 1:05 pm and 3:35 pm NIGHTLY - 7:05 pm and 9:35 pm

-THE GREEN HORNET IN DIGITAL 3D 14A
Violence, Coarse Language MATINEE - Sat., Sun. 12:55 pm and 3:30 pm NIGHTLY - 6:55 pm and 9:30 pm WETA-SHOW

-SEASON OF THE WITCH 14A
MATINEE - Sat., Sun. 1:00 pm and 3:25 pm NIGHTLY - 7:00 pm and 9:25 pm

-TRUE GRIT 14A
MATINEE - Sat., Sun. - 1:00 pm and 3:40 pm NIGHTLY - 7:00 pm and 9:40 pm

-THE FIGHTER 14A
Coarse Language, Substance Abuse MATINEE - Sat., Sun. 1:05 pm and 3:35 pm NIGHTLY - 7:05 pm and 9:35 pm

-THE GREEN HORNET IN DIGITAL 3D 14A
Violence, Coarse Language MATINEE - Sat., Sun. 12:55 pm and 3:30 pm NIGHTLY - 6:55 pm and 9:30 pm

PARKLAND
130 CENTURY CROSSING SPRUCE GROVE 780-967-7773

GREEN HORNET 14A
Fri-Thurs 7:00pm & 9:20pm Matinees Sat Sun & Tuesday 1:00pm & 3:20pm Coarse Language & Violence

THE DILEMMA 14A
Fri-Thurs 6:55pm & 9:30pm Matinees Sat Sun & Tuesday 1:05pm & 3:30pm Coarse Language

BLACK SWAN 14A
Fri-Thurs 7:00pm & 9:15pm Matinees Sat Sun & Tuesday 1:05pm & 3:15pm Coarse Language, Sexual Content, Not Recommended for Young Children

YOGI BEAR 3D G
Fri - Thurs 6:45pm & 9:00pm Matinees Sat Sun & Tuesday 12:45pm & 3:00pm *\$3.00 surcharge per admission applies to all 3D presentations

YOGI BEAR 2D G
Matinees Sat Sun & Tuesday only 12:50pm & 3:10pm

LITTLE FOCKERS PG

Fri - Thurs 7:05pm & 9:05pm Coarse Language

TANGLED G
Matinees Sat Sun & Tuesday 1:05pm & 3:05pm

TRUE GRIT PG
Fri - Thurs 7:15pm & 9:25pm Matinees Sat Sun & Tuesday 1:15pm & 3:25pm Frightening Scenes

CINEPLEX ODEON SOUTH
1525 99TH ST
EDMONTON 780-436-8585

THE GREEN HORNET 14A
(COARSE LANGUAGE, COARSE LANGUAGE) DIGITAL 3D, NO PASSES
FRI-SAT 12:45, 5:30, 8:15, 11:00; SUN-THURS 1:30, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00

THE GREEN HORNET 3D 14A
(COARSE LANGUAGE, COARSE LANGUAGE) DIGITAL 3D, NO PASSES
FRI-SAT 11:30, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30; ULTRA-VX, NO PASSES
SUN-THURS 1:30, 4:15, 6:00, 8:45, 9:45

THE GREEN HORNET 3D 14A
(COARSE LANGUAGE, COARSE LANGUAGE) ULTRA-VX, NO PASSES
FRI-SAT 11:30, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30; ULTRA-VX, NO PASSES
SUN-THURS 1:30, 4:15, 6:00, 8:45, 9:45

THE DILEMMA PG
(COARSE LANGUAGE) NO PASSES FRI-SAT 12:30, 3:00, 5:45, 8:30, 11:05; SUN-THURS 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:15, 9:50

SEASON OF THE WITCH 14A
(COARSE LANGUAGE, COARSE LANGUAGE) NO PASSES FRI-SAT 11:45, 2:30, 5:15, 8:00, 10:45; SUN-THURS 1:35, 4:20, 6:55, 9:40, 10:15

COUNTRY STRONG PG
(COARSE LANGUAGE, SUBSTANCE ABUSE) FRI-SAT 11:45, 2:25, 5:05, 7:50, 10:30; SUN-THURS 1:30, 4:20, 7:05, 9:45

BARNEY'S VERSION 14A
(COARSE LANGUAGE, SEXUAL CONTENT, SUBSTANCE ABUSE) FRI-SAT 11:45, 2:30, 5:15, 8:00, 10:45; SUN-THURS 1:35, 4:20, 6:55, 9:40, 10:15

LITTLE FOCKERS PG
(CRUDE SEXUAL CONTENT, NOT REC. FOR YOUNG CHILDREN) FRI-SAT 11:30, 1:45, 4:00, 6:15, 8:40, 11:05; SUN-WED 10:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00; THURS 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00

LITTLE FOCKERS PG
(CRUDE SEXUAL CONTENT, NOT REC. FOR YOUNG CHILDREN) STAR & STROLLERS SCREENING THURS 10:00

TRUE GRIT 14A
(VIOLENCE) FRI-SAT 12:30, 3:00, 5:45, 8:25, 10:50; SUN-THURS 1:45, 4:15, 7:00, 9:30

YOGI BEAR 3D G
DIGITAL 3D FRI-SAT 12:30, 2:30, 4:30; SUN-THURS 1:00, 3:00, 5:00

TRON: LEGACY PG
DIGITAL 3D FRI-SAT 11:30, 2:20, 5:00, 8:00, 10:50; SUN-THURS 1:00, 3:45, 6:40, 9:30

THE FIGHTER 14A
(SUBSTANCE ABUSE, COARSE LANGUAGE) FRI-SAT 12:40, 3:15, 5:50, 8:35, 11:05; SUN-THURS 2:00, 4:45, 7:20, 10:15

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: THE VOYAGE OF THE DAWN TREADER PG
(FRIGHTENING SCENES) FRI-SAT 12:40; SUN-THURS 1:30

THE KING'S SPEECH PG
(LANGUAGE MAY OFFEND) FRI-SAT 11:45, 2:25, 5:00, 7:45, 10:20; SUN-WED 1:30, 4:45, 7:45, 10:15; THURS 4:45, 7:45, 10:15

THE KING'S SPEECH PG
(LANGUAGE MAY OFFEND) STAR & STROLLERS SCREENING THURS 10:00

THE TOURIST PG
(COARSE LANGUAGE) FRI-SAT 3:25, 5:45, 8:10, 10:30; SUN-WED 4:15, 7:20, 10:10, 10:10; THURS 4:15, 10:10

BLACK SWAN 14A
(NOT RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN, SEXUAL CONTENT, DISTURBING CONTENT) FRI-SAT 12:00, 2:45, 5:15, 8:00, 10:45; SUN-THURS 1:55, 4:30, 7:00, 9:25

TANGLED 3D G
DIGITAL 3D FRI-SAT 12:15, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:40; SUN-THURS 1:05, 3:20, 5:35, 7:50, 10:05

HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS: PART 1 PG
(NOT REC. FOR YOUNG CHILDREN, FRIGHTENING SCENES, VIOLENCE) DIGITAL CINEMA FRI-SAT 9:30, 4:30; SUN-THURS 7:00, 10:10

EVANGELINE: 2.0 YOU CAN (NOT) ADVANCE (I) THURS 7:00

GALAXY CINEMAS
2020 SHERWOOD DRIVE
SHERWOOD PARK 780-416-0100

THE GREEN HORNET 3D 14A
(COARSE LANGUAGE, COARSE LANGUAGE) DIGITAL 3D, NO PASSES
FRI 4:05, 7:00, 10:00, SAT-SUN 1:15, 4:05, 7:00, 10:00; MON-THURS 7:00, 10:00

THE DILEMMA PG
(COARSE LANGUAGE) NO PASSES FRI 4:20, 7:15, 10:10; SAT-SUN 1:35, 4:20, 7:15, 10:10; MON-THURS 7:15, 10:10

SEASON OF THE WITCH 14A
(VIOLENCE) FRI 4:30, 7:05, 9:55; SAT-SUN 1:45, 4:30, 7:05, 9:55; MON-THURS 7:05, 9:55

LITTLE FOCKERS PG
(CRUDE SEXUAL CONTENT, NOT REC. FOR YOUNG CHILDREN) FRI 4:35, 7:10, 9:50; SAT-SUN 1:55, 4:35, 7:10, 9:50; MON-THURS 7:10, 9:50

TRUE GRIT 14A
(VIOLENCE) FRI 4:40, 7:30, 10:20; SAT-SUN 2:00, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20; MON-THURS 7:30, 10:10

YOGI BEAR 3D G
DIGITAL 3D FRI 4:15, 7:00, 9:20; SAT-SUN 1:50, 4:15, 7:00, 9:20; MON-THURS 7:00, 9:20

TRON: LEGACY PG
DIGITAL 3D FRI 3:50, 6:50, 9:40; SAT-SUN 1:00, 3:50, 6:50, 9:40; MON-THURS 6:50, 9:40

THE FIGHTER 14A
(SUBSTANCE ABUSE, COARSE LANGUAGE) FRI 4:05, 7:20, 10:05; SAT-SUN 1:20, 4:05, 7:20, 10:05; MON-THURS 7:20, 10:05

THE KING'S SPEECH PG
(LANGUAGE MAY OFFEND) FRI 4:00, 6:45, 9:35; SAT-SUN 1:15, 4:00, 6:45, 9:35; MON-THURS 6:45, 9:35

BLACK SWAN 14A
(NOT RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN, SEXUAL CONTENT, DISTURBING CONTENT) FRI 4:10, 6:55, 9:40; SAT-SUN 1:25, 4:10, 6:55, 9:40; MON-THURS 6:55, 9:40

CINEPLEX ODEON NORTH
14231 197TH AVENUE
EDMONTON 780-732-2236

THE GREEN HORNET 3D 14A
(COARSE LANGUAGE, COARSE LANGUAGE) DIGITAL 3D, NO PASSES
FRI-THURS 12:45, 3:40, 6:40, 9:30

THE GREEN HORNET 3D 14A
(COARSE LANGUAGE, COARSE LANGUAGE) ULTRA-VX, NO PASSES
FRI-THURS 1:45, 4:50, 7:45, 10:30

THE DILEMMA PG
(COARSE LANGUAGE) NO PASSES FRI-TUE-THURS 1:30, 4:30, 7:10, 10:00; WED 4:30, 7:10, 10:00

THE DILEMMA PG
(COARSE LANGUAGE) STAR & STROLLERS SCREENING, NO PASSES WED 1:00

SEASON OF THE WITCH 14A
(VIOLENCE) FRI-THURS 2:10, 5:10, 8:00, 10:25

COUNTRY STRONG PG
(COARSE LANGUAGE, SUBSTANCE ABUSE) FRI-THURS 1:00, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40

LITTLE FOCKERS PG
(CRUDE SEXUAL CONTENT, NOT REC. FOR YOUNG CHILDREN) FRI-THURS 2:00, 5:00, 7:50, 10:20

TRUE GRIT 14A
(VIOLENCE) FRI-THURS 1:10, 4:10, 7:00, 9:45

YOGI BEAR G
FRI-THURS 12:50, 3:10, 5:15

TRON: LEGACY PG
DIGITAL 3D FRI-THURS 1:15, 4:15, 7:20, 10:15

THE FIGHTER 14A
(SUBSTANCE ABUSE, COARSE LANGUAGE) FRI-THURS 1:40, 4:20, 7:30, 10:10

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: THE VOYAGE OF THE DAWN TREADER PG
(FRIGHTENING SCENES) DIGITAL 3D FRI-THURS 12:30, 3:20

THE TOURIST PG
(COARSE LANGUAGE) DIGITAL CINEMA FRI-THURS 6:30, 9:20

BLACK SWAN 14A
(NOT RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN, SEXUAL CONTENT, DISTURBING CONTENT) FRI-TUE-THURS 12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50; WED 3:50, 6:50, 9:50

BLACK SWAN 14A
(NOT RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN, SEXUAL CONTENT, DISTURBING CONTENT) STAR & STROLLERS SCREENING WED 1:00

TANGLED G
FRI-SUN-WED 12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:10; SAT 12:45, 3:40, 6:45, 9:10; THURS 12:45, 3:45, 9:10

THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: DON PASQUALE ENCORE
MON 6:30

EVANGELINE: 2.0 YOU CAN (NOT) ADVANCE (I) THURS 7:00

HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS: PART 1 PG
(NOT REC. FOR YOUNG CHILDREN, FRIGHTENING

SCENES/VIOLENCE) FRI-THURS 8:15

CINEMA CITY MOVIES 12
5074 130 AVE
EDMONTON 780-472-9779

YAMLA PAGLA DEEWANA (I)
FRI-THURS 10:30, 8:00

BURLESQUE PG
(NOT RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN, COARSE LANGUAGE) FRI-THURS 1:30, 4:05, 6:55, 9:25

FASTER 14A
(BRUTAL VIOLENCE) FRI-THURS 1:25, 4:30, 7:35, 9:50

LOVE & OTHER DRUGS 18A
(COARSE LANGUAGE, COARSE LANGUAGE) FRI-THURS 1:45, 4:00, 6:50, 9:15

UNSTOPPABLE PG
(COARSE LANGUAGE) FRI-THURS 1:55, 4:35, 7:25, 10:00

MORNING GLORY PG
(MATURE SUBJECT MATTER, COARSE LANGUAGE) FRI-THURS 1:35, 3:55, 7:20, 9:45

DUE DATE 14A
(SUBSTANCE ABUSE) FRI-THURS 1:40, 4:40, 7:05, 9:30

RED 14A
(VIOLENCE) FRI-THURS 1:15, 4:15, 7:10, 9:40

LIFE AS WE KNOW IT PG
(LANGUAGE MAY OFFEND, SUBSTANCE ABUSE) FRI-THURS 1:50, 4:25, 7:15, 9:55

THE SOCIAL NETWORK PG
(COARSE LANGUAGE, SUBSTANCE ABUSE) FRI-THURS 1:35, 4:10, 7:05, 9:30

SCOTIABANK THEATRE WEST
8862 110 ST
EDMONTON 780-444-2400

THE GREEN HORNET 3D 14A
(COARSE LANGUAGE, COARSE LANGUAGE) DIGITAL 3D, NO PASSES
FRI-THURS 12:30, 1:30, 3:30, 4:30, 6:30, 7:30, 9:30, 10:30

THE DILEMMA PG
(COARSE LANGUAGE) NO PASSES FRI 4:10, 7:05, 10:10; SAT-SUN 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10

SEASON OF THE WITCH 14A
(VIOLENCE) FRI-THURS 1:50, 4:50, 7:50, 10:20

COUNTRY STRONG PG
(COARSE LANGUAGE, SUBSTANCE ABUSE) FRI-TUE-THURS 12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:40; WED 3:40, 6:40, 9:40

COUNTRY STRONG PG
(COARSE LANGUAGE, SUBSTANCE ABUSE) STAR & STROLLERS SCREENING WED 1:00

LITTLE FOCKERS PG
(CRUDE SEXUAL CONTENT, NOT REC. FOR YOUNG CHILDREN) FRI-THURS 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:15

TRUE GRIT 14A
(VIOLENCE) FRI-THURS 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:15

TRON: LEGACY PG
DIGITAL 3D FRI-THURS 2:00, 5:00, 8:00

THE FIGHTER 14A
(SUBSTANCE ABUSE, COARSE LANGUAGE) FRI-SUN-TUE-THURS 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:30; MON-THURS 3:30, 10:30

TRON: LEGACY: AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE PG
FRI-THURS 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: THE VOYAGE OF THE DAWN TREADER 3D PG
(FRIGHTENING SCENES) DIGITAL 3D FRI-THURS 12:30, 3:20

THE TOURIST PG
(COARSE LANGUAGE) DIGITAL CINEMA FRI-THURS 6:30, 9:20

BLACK SWAN 14A
(NOT RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN, SEXUAL CONTENT, DISTURBING CONTENT) FRI-TUE-THURS 12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50; WED 3:50, 6:50, 9:50

BLACK SWAN 14A
(NOT RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN, SEXUAL CONTENT, DISTURBING CONTENT) STAR & STROLLERS SCREENING WED 1:00

TANGLED G
FRI-SUN-WED 12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:10; SAT 12:45, 3:40, 6:45, 9:10; THURS 12:45, 3:45, 9:10

THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: DON PASQUALE ENCORE
MON 6:30

EVANGELINE: 2.0 YOU CAN (NOT) ADVANCE (I) THURS 7:00

WESTMOUNT CENTRE CINEMAS
2003 WESTMOUNT SHOPPING CENTRE
EDMONTON 780-455-8776

THE KING'S SPEECH PG
(LANGUAGE MAY OFFEND) DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL FRI 6:30, 9:25; SAT-SUN 12:45, 3:35, 6:30, 9:25; MON-THURS 9:00, 8:00

TRUE GRIT 14A
(VIOLENCE) DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL FRI 6:45, 9:35; SAT-SUN 1:00, 3:45, 6:45, 9:35; MON-THURS 5:10, 8:10

BLACK SWAN 14A
(NOT RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN, SEXUAL CONTENT, DISTURBING CONTENT) DTS DIGITAL FRI 7:00, 9:50; SAT-SUN 1:30, 3:20, 7:00, 9:50; MON-THURS 5:20, 8:20

CLAREVIEW CINEMAS
4271 139TH AVE
EDMONTON 780-412-7600

THE FIGHTER 14A
(SUBSTANCE ABUSE, COARSE LANGUAGE) FRI 4:20, 7:00, 9:45; SAT-SUN 1:30, 4:20, 7:00, 9:45; MON-THURS 5:25, 8:15

YOGI BEAR 3D G
DIGITAL 3D FRI 4:25, 6:55, 9:10; SAT-SUN 2:00, 4:25, 6:55, 9:10; MON-THURS 5:00, 7:40

TRON: LEGACY 3D PG
DIGITAL 3D FRI 3:50, 6:45, 9:35; SAT-SUN 12:45, 3:50, 6:45, 9:35; MON-THURS 4:50, 7:50

LITTLE FOCKERS PG
(CRUDE SEXUAL CONTENT, NOT REC. FOR YOUNG CHILDREN) FRI 4:40, 7:20, 9:55; SAT-SUN 1:50, 4:40, 7:20, 9:55; MON-THURS 5:40, 8:30

TRUE GRIT 14A
(VIOLENCE) FRI 4:00, 6:35, 9:20; SAT-SUN 1:00, 4:00, 6:35, 9:20; MON-THURS 5:15, 8:25

SEASON OF THE WITCH 14A
(VIOLENCE) FRI 4:40, 7:15, 9:40; SAT-SUN 1:45, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40; MON-THURS 5:50, 8:35

THE KING'S SPEECH PG
(LANGUAGE MAY OFFEND) FRI 3:40, 6:30, 9:15; SAT-SUN 12:50, 3:40, 6:30, 9:15; MON-THURS 4:45, 7:45

THE DILEMMA PG
(COARSE LANGUAGE) FRI 4:30, 7:10, 9:50; SAT-SUN 1:40, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50; MON-THURS 5:30, 8:20

THE GREEN HORNET 3D 14A
(COARSE LANGUAGE, COARSE LANGUAGE) DIGITAL 3D FRI 4:45, 6:40, 9:30; SAT-SUN 1:00, 3:45, 6:40, 9:30; MON-THURS 5:20, 8:10

BLACK SWAN 14A
(NOT RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN, SEXUAL CONTENT, DISTURBING CONTENT) FRI 4:10, 6:50, 9:25; SAT-SUN 1:20, 4:10, 6:50, 9:25; MON-THURS 5:10, 8:00

CITY CENTRE 9 CINEMAS
10200 102ND AVE, UNIT D300
EDMONTON 780-421-7020

BARNEY'S VERSION 14A
(COARSE LANGUAGE, SEXUAL CONTENT, SUBSTANCE ABUSE) DTS DIGITAL, STADIUM SEATING FRI-THURS 12:05, 3:10, 6:30, 9:45

THE GREEN HORNET 14A
(COARSE LANGUAGE, VIOLENCE) DTS DIGITAL, STADIUM SEATING, REALD 3D FRI-THURS 12:40, 3:40, 7:00, 9:55

THE KING'S SPEECH PG
(LANGUAGE MAY OFFEND) DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL, STADIUM SEATING FRI-THURS 12:00, 3:00, 6:40, 10:00

TRUE GRIT 14A
(VIOLENCE) DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL, STADIUM SEATING FRI-THURS 12:15, 3:15, 7:15, 10:20

LITTLE FOCKERS PG
(CRUDE SEXUAL CONTENT, NOT REC. FOR YOUNG CHILDREN) DTS DIGITAL, STADIUM SEATING FRI-THURS 12:25, 3:25, 7:55, 10:30

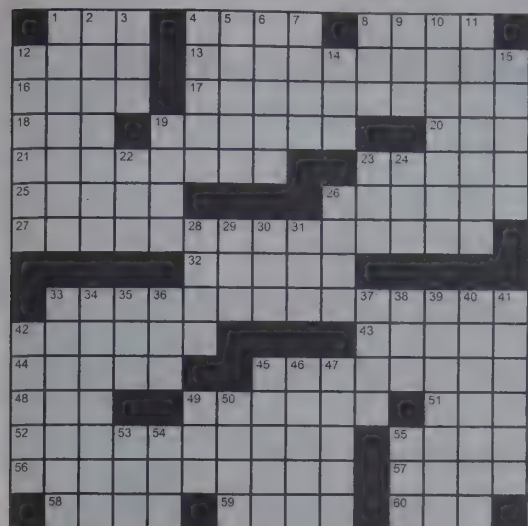
SEASON OF THE WITCH 14A
(VIOLENCE) DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL FRI-THURS 12:10, 2:35, 5:10, 7:35, 10:10

THE FIGHTER 14A
(SUBSTANCE ABUSE, COARSE LANGUAGE) DTS DIGITAL, STADIUM SEATING FRI-THURS 12:30, 3:30, 6:45, 9:30

TRON: LEGACY 3D PG
DIGITAL 3D, DIGITAL PRESENTATION, STADIUM SEATING FRI-THURS 12:20, 3:20, 7:05, 10:05

THE DILEMMA PG
(COARSE LANGUAGE) DTS DIGITAL, STADIUM SEATING FRI-THURS 12:50, 3:50, 7:20, 10:15

Grandin not available at print time



THE WORST OF 2010

JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT IT WAS OVER...

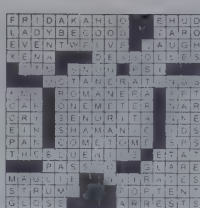
JONESIN' CROSSWORD by Matt Jones
©2010 Jonesin' Crosswords (editor@jonesincrosswords.com)

ACROSS

- 1 ___-Wan Kenobi
- 4 Perry Mason assignment
- 8 Comfy shoe
- 12 Collapse, with "over"
- 13 In a crawling position
- 16 Just sitting there
- 17 Her "Can't Be Tamed" video made Yahoo! Music's "The Least Awesome Videos of 2010" list
- 18 ___ de los Muertos (Mexican holiday)
- 19 "Go jump off a cliff"
- 20 WWII naval vessel
- 21 One way to constantly check one of the worst news stories of 2010
- 23 Home of a mail order steak business
- 25 Zigzag-mustached Nintendo bad guy
- 26 Patient follower
- 27 Sitcom (as pronounced on CBS ads) that made tvsquad.com's "Worst of TV in 2010" list
- 32 "Lisa Bonet ___ basil" (palindrome)
- 33 Brendan Fraser movie that made many Top 10 Worst of 2010 movie lists
- 42 Pack animals
- 43 iPhone competitor
- 44 Part of a green mantra
- 45 Skin-tight jeans hybrid on thefrisky.com's "The Worst Fashion Trends of 2010" list
- 48 Math class with x's and y's: abbr.
- 49 Safer of "60 Minutes"
- 51 Encl. with some contest entries
- 52 Breadless KFC sandwich on Newsweek's "13 Worst Trends of 2010" list
- 55 Key at the bottom left
- 56 Either "Lady and the Tramp" antagonist

- 57 Bar that gets many prank calls
 - 58 "___ Eyes" (song by The Eagles)
 - 59 "The ___ the limit!"
 - 60 Well-chosen
- ## DOWN
- 1 Of some mother-son relationships
 - 2 Calgary neighborhood that's not quite where the Fresh Prince moved
 - 3 French vacation spot, maybe
 - 4 Word before strip or opera
 - 5 Grammy-winning singer Baker
 - 6 Capital home to Willamette University
 - 7 Grades K-6
 - 8 Ozone layer pollutant
 - 9 Tiger attack victim of 2003
 - 10 The Virgin Mary, in Catholicism
 - 11 Puppy love involvements
 - 12 Afternoon children's programming block that moved to The CW
 - 14 Caustic cleaner
 - 15 Astronomical giant with a spectral letter ranking
 - 19 "Blee ___ Blues" (Count Basie song)
 - 22 "Hips Don't ___" (song by Shakira)
 - 23 Baby docs
 - 24 Soccer pro Hamm
 - 26 "My Life as ___" (1985 Swedish film)
 - 28 "The Say Hey Kid"
 - 29 Canadian children's network
 - 30 Billy ___ Williams
 - 31 "Raggedy" doll
 - 33 Liquid petroleum byproduct
 - 34 First Latin American country to nationally legalize same-sex civil unions
 - 35 They get their own crossings: abbr.
 - 36 Fish eggs
 - 37 Trendsetting
 - 38 Jackie O's ex

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



- 39 Ceaseless
- 40 Smoke, back in the day
- 41 Ford fiascos
- 42 Thin nails
- 45 Slangy subgenre for bands like X Japan, Dragon Ash and Luna Sea
- 46 Denver Bronco with the retired number 7
- 47 Well-mannered guys
- 49 My, to Marcel
- 50 Dedicated poems
- 53 Fat measure, for short
- 54 Spy novelist Deighton
- 55 Where Taylor Swift gets trophies

LISTINGS (cont'd from p. 25)

- AWAKENING THE RIVER OF YOUR HEARTSONG DANCE**
PERCUSSION STUDIO 7252 101 AVE - Vocal improvisation - MONDAYS AT 7:00 PM Info: 780 485-2515
- EDMONTON'S BILINGUAL TOASTMASTER'S CLUB**
CANPLUS ST. JEAN 8406 MARIE-ANNE-GABOURY ST. - TUESDAYS AT 7:00 PM
- FACILITATED DRUM CIRCLES. DANCE PERCUSSION**
STUDIO 7252 101 AVE - TUESDAYS AT 7:00 PM Info: 780 485-2515
- FLAMENCO DANCE CLASSES** (JUDITH GARCIA) BEDOUIN BEATS STUDIO 1805 94 ST. - SATURDAYS AT 1:00 PM Info: 780 761-0773 www.flamencocanada.com
- HEART DANCE** WESTMOUNT FITNESS CLUB 12840 109 AVE. EDMONTON - WEDNESDAYS AT 7:15 PM Info: 780 485-2515
- MARIMBA LESSONS** DANCE PERCUSSION STUDIO 7252 101 AVE - THURSDAYS AT 7:00 PM Info: 780 485-2515
- MATISSE'S MAGIC LINES** ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA 2 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQ. - SUN JAN 16, 12:00 PM www.youyaga.ca
- POWER TALK INTERNATIONAL** TRINITY UNITED CHURCH 8810 MEADOWLARK RD. - THURSDAYS AT 7:00 PM
- SALSA ROCKS** ON THE ROCKS 11740 JASPER AVE. - THURSDAYS AT 8:00 PM
- STUDIO Y YOUTH DROP-IN WORKSHOPS** ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA 2 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQ. - Remove: Reductive Drawing and Printmaking - FRI JAN 14, 3:30 PM www.youyaga.ca
- SWING DANCE AT SUGAR FOOT STOMP** ORANGE HALL 10335 84 AVE. - Beginner lessons followed by dance - SATURDAYS AT 8:00 PM
- TANGO CLASSES** ORANGE HALL 10335 84 AVE. - THURSDAYS AT 7:00 PM Info: 780 905-8505
- TOURS FOR TODS** ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA 2 SIR

WINSTON CHURCHILL SQ. - Drop in art classes for families and children aged three-five - WEDNESDAYS AT 10:00 AM www.youyaga.ca

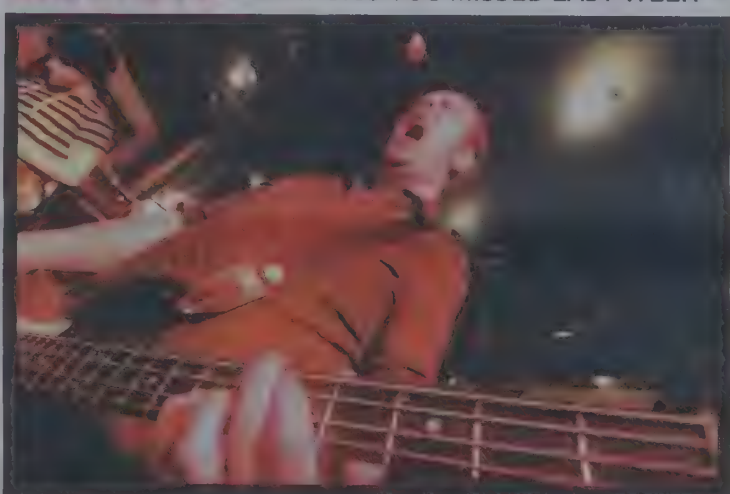
QUEER

- G.L.B.T.Q. SENIORS GROUP** S.A.G.E. BUILDING 10 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQ. - This meeting is for gay seniors, also for any seniors that have Gay Family members and would like some guidance. Classroom B - WEDNESDAYS AT 1:00 PM www.mysage.ca
- COMMUNITY POTLUCK** PRIDE CENTRE 9540 111 AVE. - LAST TUES. OF THE MONTH 7PM
- HIV SUPPORT GROUP** PRIDE CENTRE 9540 111 AVE. - Support group for people living with HIV/AIDS - FIRST MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH
- ILLUSIONS SOCIAL CLUB: CROSSDRESSERS** THE JUNCTION 10242 106 ST. - SECOND FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH. 8:30 PM Info: 780 387-3343
- MEN TALKING WITH PRIDE** PRIDE CENTRE 9540 111 AVE. - A social discussion group for gay, bisexual and transgendered men to discuss current issues and to offer support to each other. SUNDAYS AT 7:00 PM
- SENIORS DROP-IN** PRIDE CENTRE 9540 111 AVE. - TUE. AND THURS. 11 AM
- YOUTH MOVIE** PRIDE CENTRE 9540 111 AVE. - THURS. 6:30 PM
- YOUTH UNDERSTANDING YOUTH** VARIOUS LOCATIONS. VENUES CHANGE - SATURDAYS AT 7:00 PM
- YOUTHSPEACE SOUTH** OLD STRATHCONA YOUTH SOCIETY 10325 83 AVE. - Drop in/group activities - WEDNESDAYS AT 3:30 PM

Activism

SILENT VIGIL OLD STRATHCONA FARMERS' MARKET 10310 83 AV NW - SAT JAN 15, 10:00 AM

SEEN IT LIVE · GREAT GIGS YOU MISSED LAST WEEK



END OF AN ERA: Slow Fresh Oil, who last played back in the early Notings, gets one last shot of booster juice at the Black Dog going-bash Brent Oliver - the local promoter who is leaving us for a secure job in Winnipeg. The band also featured local heavyweights Lyle Bell and Gravy. | PHOTO BY FISH GRIWKOWSKY

classifieds

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200. Business/Invest. Oppor.

BE YOUR OWN BOSS with Great Canadian Dollar Store. New franchise opportunities in your area. Call 1-877-388-0123 ext. 229 or visit our website: www.dollarstores.com today.

FARMERS/ACREAGE Owners: Profit from growing Rhodiola Rosea (herb). 2010 Premier's Gold Award of Excellence for Rhodiola Rosea commercialization; www.arro.ca. Free workshop, Monica 780-983-0199; monica@arro.ca.

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200. Business/Invest. Oppor.

MOMS EARNING MORE Work from home part or full-time. No selling. No inventory. No parties. No risk. Visit www.momsearningmore.com or call 1-866-843-5508.

410. Education/Training

MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTION is rated #2 for at-home jobs. Train from home with the only industry approved school in Canada. Contact CanScribe today! 1-800-4-66-1535; www.canscribe.com; info@canscribe.com.

1500. Help Wanted — Alta.

BUCHANAN LUMBER in High Prairie, Alberta is looking for experienced button top and processor operators. Fax resume to Greg Buchanan at 780-523-5422.

DAY RATE vacuum truck drivers. All work in Alberta. Fax resume to 403-845-3903.

1500. Help Wanted — Alta.

BUCHANAN LUMBER in High Prairie, Alberta is looking for experienced log haul drivers. Minimum 2 years experience. Fax resume to Dan Bloomfield at 780-523-5910, along with an updated drivers abstract.

CAMEX EQUIPMENT Sales & Rentals is hiring welders. Journeymen & apprentices are needed immediately at our super busy shop in Nisku. We have competitive wages. We have excellent employee benefits. Work close to home. Apply online, or at resumes@camex.ca.

ENCORE CORING & DRILLING Inc. hiring all Coring & Drilling positions for 2010-2011 Season. Ask about our coring premium and incentives. Apply now 1-888-ENSGN-0 (1-888-367-4460) or local 780-955-8808; hrc@ensignenergy.com or fax 780-955-6160.

1500. Help Wanted — Alta.

HAVE FUN making money as an actor, actress or film extra on Calgary movie sets. All ages required. Phone 403-521-0077.

INTERIOR HEAVY EQUIPMENT Operator School. Locations in Alberta & BC. Hands on real world training. Full sized equipment. Job placement assistance. Funding available. 1-866-3-99-3853; www.iheschool.com.

JOURNALISTS, Graphic Artists, Marketing and more. Alberta's weekly newspapers are looking for people like you. Post your resume online. Free Visit www.aina.com/resumes_add.php.

PROVINCE-WIDE Classifieds. Reach over 1 million readers weekly. Only \$259 + GST (based on 25 words or less). Call this newspaper NOW for details.

classifieds

PHONE: 430-9003 | FAX: 432-1102 | EMAIL: classifieds@see.greatwest.ca

1500. Help Wanted - Alta.

ADVERTISING TRAFFIC
Coordinator. Local.
Edmonton, Alberta. The
Advertising Traffic Coordinator
will be responsible for handling
and "prelighting" incoming print
advertising material and
distribution to our member
newspapers. Some design and
PDF file manipulation may be
required. This position will
ensure the ads are produced
correctly and quality controls are
used as part of the order
fulfillment. Your attention to detail
is vital and organizational skills
will be key to success.
Qualifications: 1 - 3 years of
experience in the
newspaper or advertising
business would be considered an
asset. Post secondary education
in Business Administration or
equivalent. Proficient in MS-
Office, particularly Excel.
Experience with Adobe Acrobat,
Indesign, Illustrator, and
Macintosh computer environment
is preferred. Strong attention to
detail and the ability to work well
both independently as well as in
a team environment. Note: This
is a 4-day per week position,
totaling 30 hours per week.
Application Process: Please
submit your resume and
references by email or fax to:
info@awna.com 780-430-5380.
No phone calls please. Position
available immediately. Please
visit our website for more
information at www.awna.com.

HEAVY EQUIPMENT SERVICE
Technicians. Brandt Tractor has
field and shop positions
available in many locations
throughout Canada including:
Calgary, Cranbrook, Edmonton,
Fort McMurray (rotating shift
schedules), Fort Nelson, Fort St.
John, Grande Prairie and Red
Deer. Brandt also has positions
available for Resident Field
Technicians to be located in
Drayton Valley & High Prairie.
Brandt Tractor is the world's
largest privately held John Deere
Construction & Forestry
Equipment dealer and a Platinum
member of the Canada's 50 Best
Managed Companies Program.
Find out more about our other
career opportunities including
parts and sales positions at
www.brandttractor.com or by
calling 306-791-5979. Email
resumes indicating position title
and location to:
hr@brandttractor.com or fax
306-791-5986.

1500. Help Wanted - Alta.

RECREATION FACILITY
Manager. The Town of Edson
invites applications for the
position of Recreation Facility
Manager. This position is
responsible for all aspects of
management, maintenance and
operation of the Edson & District
Leisure Centre. Responsibilities
include the operation of the
indoor pool, twin arenas and
concession. The successful
candidate shall have experience
in pool and arena management.
Candidates shall also have Pool
and Arena Operator Level II
courses or equivalent. A
certificate in Recreation Facility
Management would be an asset.
Public relations skills including
the ability to speak effectively in
public and the ability to establish
and maintain effective working
relationships are expected.
Edson is located in the foothills
with many outdoor recreational
and leisure offerings. It is only
two hours from either Edmonton
to the east or Jasper to the west.
The salary is commensurate with
the level of the position and
comes with an excellent benefit
package. The job description
and duties can be emailed upon
request. Interested applicants are
invited to submit a letter of
interest accompanied by
detailed resume including three
employment related references
to: Mike Butler, Director of
Community Services, Town of
Edson, P.O. Box 630, Edson,
AB, T7E 1T7. Telephone
780-723-4403. Fax
780-723-7250. Email:
mikeb@townofedson.ca. All
expressions of interest in this
position are appreciated.
However, only those applicants to
be interviewed will be
acknowledged. For more
information about Edson,
applicants are invited to visit the
Town's Website at
<http://www.townofedson.ca>.

1500. Volunteers Wanted

Give the gift of Time. Volunteer
as a Client Companion. Pilgrims
Hospice 780-413-9801 x 303
debbs@pilgrimshospice.ca

Goodwill Needs You!
Volunteer board members
needed for 2011
www.goodwill.ab.ca

Youth Emergency Shelter
recruiting volunteers to help run
hot chocolate tent. Contact
Michelle at 780-468-7186 ext
234

2010. Musicians Available

Bass player available for Rockin
band. Gigs preferable. Reads
music, jams and grooves
780-245-9781

2020. Musicians Wanted

Bassist needed for Top 40
Rock n Roll band.
Contact bpear@shaw.ca

Drummer needed for original
hard rock band welcome covers.
Int'l. Velvet Revolver / STP /
Chains / Nirvana / GNR. Serious
only 780-996-3571

Drummer needed for original hard
rock. Int'l. Velvet Revolver/STP
/Chains/etc. Good gear and attitude
a must. Call 780-996-3571 any
time

GUITARISTS, BASSISTS, Pianists
& Drummers, vocalists needed for
good paying teaching jobs.
Call 429-2262/901-7677

2200. Massage Therapy

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INEFFECTIVE THERAPY,
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Saturdays. Heidi
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1-800-868-6139 (Edmonton)

3010. Auctions

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equipment & cargo trailers,
Kubota compact tractor, 3 pt
equipment, lawn tractor,
landscaping equipment, large
number of contractor tools &
more, 10% buyer fee. See
www.montgomeryauctions.com.
1-800-371-6963.

3210. Misc. For Sale

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\$18.95 unlimited long distance.
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free 1-866-884-7464.

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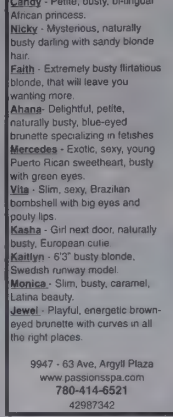
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CRUISIN' THE COSMOS



CAPRICORN (DEC. 22 - JAN. 19)

If you're careful to keep your peepers well peeled this weekend, you'll find the piece that'll finally finish the jigsaw puzzle you've been tryin' to put together for a while now. When it all pops into place, it's sure to bring a huge smile to your face.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20 - FEB. 18)

There, there, kiddo. No matter how tough times get, you need to keep your head held high 'cause you've got more important things to do than break down and cry. You'll be able to get by if you keep your eyes on the sky. Since you're an air sign and it's your element, it'll help show you the way over the next few days.

PISCES (FEB. 19 - MARCH 20)

It ain't really fair how people call you weird. You're perfectly normal in your own idiosyncratic way.... it just happens to be lovably different from everyone else. And just to show your point, this week you'll be able to show you're normal after all — them's the ones who's crazy.

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 19)

Whoa there, pardner! You can't hardly ever break a bronc on the first try. So? So what are you walkin' away for? Get back on that darn thing until you dominate it. Then you'll have something that'll help you for as long as it lives — but only if you're willing to suffer a sore ass for a while first!

TAURUS (APRIL 20 - MAY 20)

Your sign may be that of a bull, but don't take the symbolism so seriously that you go flyin' off the handle just 'cause someone's wavin' a red flag at you. Chargin' at them without thinkin' first ain't such a good idea since they've got a sword behind their back with your name on it, waitin' for you. Olé!

GEMINI (MAY 21 - JUNE 20)

Well, there's no point in tryin' for a truce, what with all you've witnessed recently. Now, with Mercury finally direct again, it's all or nothin'! Take no prisoners! And they do have somethin' to quake about 'cause quicksilver's deadly with just the right dose.

CANCER (JUNE 21 - JULY 22)

Your natural nurturin' instincts will nudge you towards making someone's decisions for 'em just so you can keep 'em safe and ensure the situation's

under control. Don't. This is one time when you've gotta watch 'em scrape their knees and earn their wisdom on their own.

LEO (JULY 23 - AUG. 22)

Things are sailin' along so smoothly that you're gettin' kinda sleepy. Well, it's always calmest before the storm and it's a comin' this weekend, so batten down the hatches. This ain't a time for makin' emotionally impulsive decisions, but for quick action based on clear thought. Think or sink!

VIRGO (AUG. 23 - SEPT. 22)

Whatcha gonna do now while you wait to see how this pans out? Work or play? Well, why don't you ask yourself this: If it turns out the outcome ain't what you expected, which would be a mistake that you'd wish you could go back and correct?

LIBRA (SEPT. 23 - OCT. 22)

Listen, Libby, you've gotta get more like your Venusian brothers and sisters, the Taureans, and learn a little bit o' patience. You'll get exactly what you want, but you'll just have to wait awhile. As obstacles go, it ain't the worst, it's just the universe makin' you earn it first!

SCORPIO (OCT. 23 - NOV. 21)

A load o' good luck may have landed in your lap, but don't go leapin' around like some kinda loopy lord left over from the 12 days of Christmas. Sit very still and think about every move you might make 'cause you could be successfully sued simply for steppin' on someone's toes.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22 - DEC. 21)

A fool and his money are soon parted, but that's no reason to be brokenhearted. See, a fool figures there's much more to life than money, or at the very least that it ain't nothin' but pieces of paper. That's why they're so silly. Oh, and happy, too!

SAVAGE (cont'd from p. 30)

dudes get it on, an angel gets an anal fissure" — I would advise you to keep your mouth shut. But since you're supportive, and mom already knows, and it's on his freakin' Facebook page, pull the little coward aside. Tell him everybody knows, everybody loves him, but everybody is sick of having to pretend that they don't know what they damn well do.

I'm a hetero guy in my late 20s.

I've been dating a woman I am crazy about for two months. We waited a little while to have sex, but once we finally did, during the ensuing pillow talk she probed my general fantasies and I dropped that I sometimes fantasize about superheroines. Despite the fact that these fantasies are otherwise very vanilla, she freaked out and said it reflects some kind of deep psychological problems and fundamental immaturity.

Dan, these women are drawn to appeal to what the inner pubescent boy in every hetero guy wants! Can you weigh in

on whether there's something unhealthy about a grown man fantasizing about Supergirl and Zatanna?

Superheroines Unconsciously Permeate Erotic Roms

There's nothing unhealthy about a grown man fantasizing about superheroines, SUPER, but there is something deeply disturbing about a grown man using the present tense the way you did in your letter. You wrote "a woman I am crazy about," when what you clearly should have said was "a woman I was crazy about."

She drew you out after sex and encouraged you to open up to her about your sexual fantasies, and then she stomped on you like that? That was an asshole move on her part, borderline emotionally/sexually abusive, and I hope you arranged to have the door hit her in the ass on her way out of your apartment.

I love it when you invent words, and I want to nominate a nameless phenomenon that sometimes afflicts boring het guys like me

(as well as all other guys): The blockage that is created by dried semen on the tip of your dick after sex needs a name. You wake up at 3:00 a.m. to drop a line after dozing off after sex, and either the urine gets blocked for a moment and then bursts out like a geyser (which kinda hurts) or the blockage is only partial and the piss sprays off at some crazy angle and gets all over the floor or the walls (which kinda sucks). This phenomenon should have a name!

Can't Spell Neologism Without Gism

I'm tempted to ask SUPER what his girlfriend's name is, CSNWG, because if anyone on earth deserves to be forever associated with a crusty blockage that has to be pissed away after sex, it's her.

But I'm sure my readers — the folks behind "santorum" — can come up with something better. Gang?

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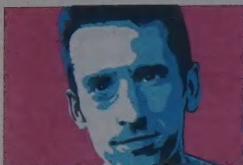
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There's No Use In Pretending You Care



SAVAGELOVE DAN SAVAGE
COUPLE MAY HAVE ITS FUN
WITH OPEN RELATIONSHIPS
BUT LACKS COMPASSION

Any time I have relationship questions, I always ask my inner Dan Savage, and he never leads me astray!

My boyfriend and I have had a wonderful relationship for six years. We have had "girlfriends" in the past who were involved with both of us simultaneously. But he recently met a girl and they instantly clicked. They have been on a few dates since — nothing physical yet — and she seems completely infatuated with him. She is aware that he lives with me/we are together, but I've yet to meet her. I am fine with them dating, but I have a few questions:

1. My guy and I share everything. He's shown me her texts and told

me about her life. We both feel slightly uncomfortable with me knowing such personal things about her without meeting her, but we don't want to limit the intensely open communication we have earned with each other. How much am I entitled to know about her/then, and how can he tell me about her without being disrespectful?

2. Can I meet her? Under what circumstances?

3. Can this end well for her? Every girl we've dated has ended up hurt because our relationship with each other is always more important than she is. I worry this girl will be devastated when he doesn't leave me for her. Should he squelch all the romance now? She's had a rough few years, and he doesn't want to add to her problems. On the other hand, he's the first person she has been able to connect with in a long time. And should he even consider bringing her into our relationship? Things always end badly for the other girl, and I don't want to hurt her.

Curious And Respectful

Your outer Dan Savage won't lead

you astray either, CAR, but he will smack you around:

1. Your guy needs to tell this girl that he shares absofuckinlutely everything with you. He needs to tell her that he's in a successful open relationship — successful for you two, anyway — and that he has no intention of limiting the "intensely open communication" that has made

ing for you and it may be working for him, but if it's not working for them, CAR, then it's not working.

So your outer Dan Savage is ordering you to refrain from inviting anyone else into your "wonderful" relationship until you get a handle on what's so un-fucking-wonderful about it for your thirds. If you can't come up with anything — if it's really not any-

you mess around with. Fuck her, fuck her over, move on — but don't stand there wringing your hands, pretending that you're just heart sick about the damage you two are doing to people.

My 20-year-old brother is gay. My family has known for a few years. He came out to my mom —

YOUR GUY NEEDS TO TELL THIS GIRL THAT HE SHARES ABSOUCKINLUTELY EVERYTHING WITH YOU. HE NEEDS TO TELL HER THAT HE'S IN A SUCCESSFUL OPEN RELATIONSHIP — SUCCESSFUL FOR YOU TWO ANYWAY — AND THAT HE HAS NO INTENTION OF LIMITING THE "INTENSELY OPEN COMMUNICATION" THAT HAS MADE YOUR RELATIONSHIP WORK.

your relationship work. She needs to know that you're hearing about their dates and the details of her life, reading every text, etc.

2. Sure, you can meet her — you absofuckinlutely should meet her, CAR, as soon as possible. How about under coffee circumstances? Or drinks circumstances? Or dinner circumstances?

3. Um ... gee. If every girl you two have ever "dated" has wound up hurt, CAR, then a reasonable person might conclude that YOU'RE DOING THIS OPEN-RELATIONSHIP SHIT ALL WRONG. Your "wonderful" open relationship may be work-

ing for you and it may be working for him, but if it's not working for them, CAR, then it's not working. So your outer Dan Savage is ordering you to refrain from inviting anyone else into your "wonderful" relationship until you get a handle on what's so un-fucking-wonderful about it for your thirds. If you can't come up with anything — if it's really not any-

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he hasn't come out to anyone else in the family, but we all found out anyway. I've voiced my acceptance of homosexuality while he is around, but he hasn't come out. Should I pull him aside and tell him that the family is okay with him?

His Straight Big Brother

If you wanted to pull your brother aside to tell him the same shit every homo on earth has heard ten million times by age 20 — "I love you, bro, but Jesus said that every time two

SAVAGE cont'd on p. 29

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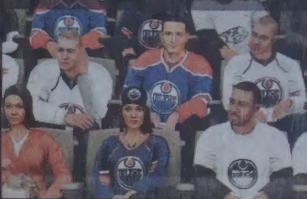
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